RAMSEY & WARBOYS REPORTER

ISSUE 15 • SEPTEMBER 2016

COVERING LOCAL NEWS, SERVING LOCAL PEOPLE

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CROWDS TURN OUT FOR 1940's WEEKEND

Despite occasional bouts of wet weather, the annual Ramsey 1940's event enjoyed another weekend of stunningly spectacular success.

An estimated 7,000 visitors flocked to the 1940's camp over the course of the two days, with plenty of re-enactors and stall owners camping out on the adjoining fields throughout the weekend.

As ever, the staged battle re-enactment and the big-top, which sits on a field adjacent to the camp-site, were popular attractions, while tank rides provided a little something extra. This year also saw the return of the Jones Van from Dad's Army, which paraded alongside genuine 1940's vehicles and was accompanied by a few well known characters, including Captain Mainwaring.

Inclement weather on the Saturday forced a slight change in the schedule, but nothing could stop the return of the Spitfire which was a fan favourite last year (pictured). The event also paid tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives in WWII with a Drum Head service on the Sunday morning.

For more, turn to page 20

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Each month, we bring you the best selection of news, views and what's on in the Ramsey area - written and produced locally and delivered **FREE** to your door.

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The Local Picture

RAMSEY REPORTER 1 YEAR OLD

"It's funny, at the time they all make such noise but then they just disappear into the Neverland. I've lasted 26 years in politics so I must be doing something right! I mean, I've stood at five general elections, and over the years at council elections up and down the country I've beaten the green party, the conservatives, the liberal democrats and the Labour party… the community party I've beaten!"

Lord Toby Jug, spoken in the Joly Sailor during this month's visit

WHATS IN THIS EDITION?

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PAGE 14 NEW RESTAURANT OPENS AT JOHNSTONS OF OLDHURST

REPORTER EXPLORES Where are you off to today? WE CHECK OUT LOCAL CHARITY LITTLE MIRACLES PAGE 31

The local constabulary will be holding a Police / Public Forum at Ramsey Methodist Church, High Street, Ramsey at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st September 2016. They are asking residents to come along and meet members of the Ramsey Community Problem Solving team and to discuss any local issues
They will also give an update on what has been happening in the area and present the results of the survey that was sent out to residents of Ramsey District via E-cops and Facebook
This is an open meeting so please come along.

HAVE YOUR SAY

See what our readers have been saying about their issues on page 14

NEWS FROM THE REPORTER BLOG

well done to all those who helped with the Litter-pick on Sat 27th Aug and filled 14 bin bags.

ITS A GOOD MONTH FOR

ABBEY COLLEGE

They broke their GCSE results record in A*- C grades, with top students awarded up to 7 A*s

ITS A BAD MONTH FOR

HAY FEVER

Sufferers endured a very high pollen count this month as crops were being harvested.

THE NATIONAL VIEW

WHAT WILL AFFECT YOU THIS MONTH?

Trouble on the Tracks
Sir Richard Branson stoked the fires of political scandal by releasing images of Jeremy Corbyn walking past empty seats in order to take a photo sat on the floor.

Will we, won't we?
Theresa May is under pressure from Brexit groups and her cabinet colleagues to invoke Article 50 and take Britain out of Europe, while she remains committed to waiting until 2017.

TV Snoopers?
Plans will be finalised this month for the new TV Licence, which will now cover the online iPlayer service. The government has proposed using vans to detect unlicensed access to this service. Other online TV sites will still be available.

Dates for your Diary

SEPTEMBER

- **11th Ramsey Heritage Open Day**
- **17th Your Bard** @ Ramsey Rural Museum
- **18th Harvest Festival** @ St Mary's Church
- **23rd Quiz Night** @ Ashbeach School
- **24th Craft Market** @ Great Whyte
- **25th Plough day** @ Ramsey Rural Museum

Get me to the Church (on time)!

ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD IN UPWOOD HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY TIDIED UP BY TWO LOCAL RESIDENTS EARLIER THIS MONTH.

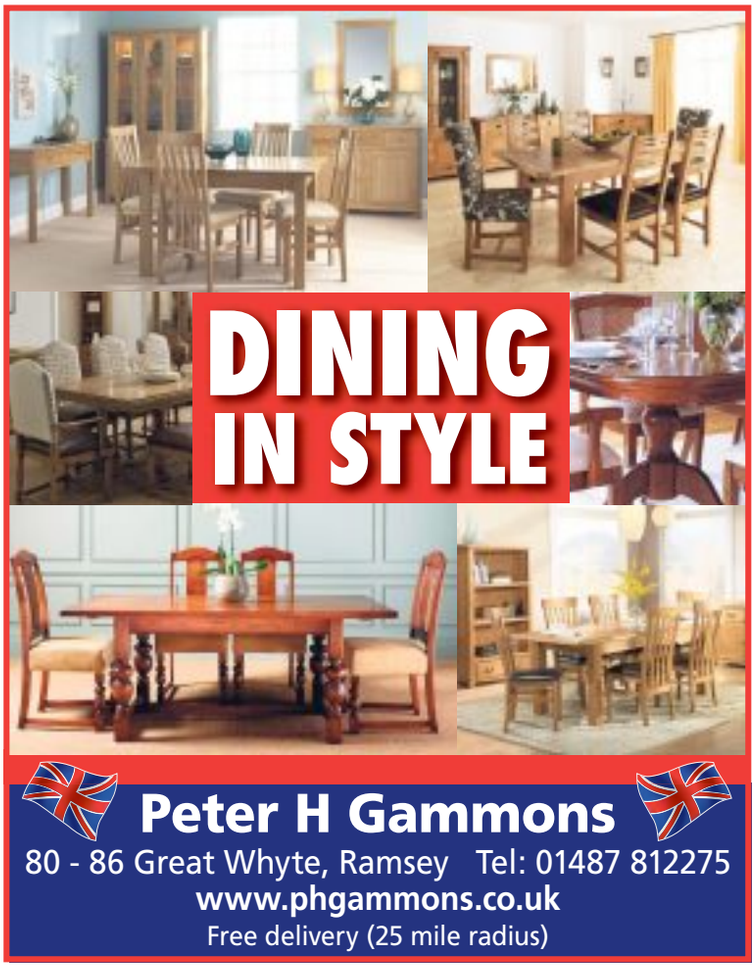
Ian Ward and Robert Brown, who is also a Ramsey Town Councillor, petitioned Upwood Parish Council to clean up the area after a wedding booking was cancelled due to the bride and groom being unable to walk up the path to the church itself.

Not Robert or Ian's first cleaning project in the area, the churchyard proved to be a significant challenge, taking up to a week to remove the overgrown foliage. Over the course of the month, the original boundary wall has been uncovered and most of the trees have been lifted, while several graves have been re-discovered amongst the overgrown plant life. Work has also been completed on the entrance and pathway from the main road, to allow pedestrians to approach the church from either side of the yard.

Two or three complaints were received when Cllr Brown posted warning of the work on his Facebook page, with at least one person concerned about the effect such work would have on local wildlife, but both men say they have received nothing but compliments.

"We are chuffed and we are proud of all the comments we have got" said Ian, whose son was married at in the church, "It's good to have something positive happen. People have been saying they have never seen the church like this".

The pair have vowed to maintain the current state of the churchyard, and are hoping to be able to work there at least once a month. They are also looking for donations of bulbs to help improve the look and rejuvenate the soil around the cleared area.



LOCAL SURGERY FACES STAFFING CRISIS

RAINBOW SURGERY HAS WARNED PATIENTS THEY FACE A RECRUITMENT CRISIS, AS CONTINUING NHS REFORMS PUT PRESSURE ON LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES.

In a statement released to the media, the surgery confirmed that they would not be able to take on new patients from August 1st, saying: "The Rainbow Surgery has been growing steadily over the last 20 years and was at the stage of needing a fourth doctor. Sadly we have not been able to recruit".

Making matters worse, Dr John Richmond stepped down on the 9th August for family reasons, leaving the surgery with only two General Practitioners. Locums will replace some of the work Dr Richmond was doing, but the surgery has stated that "it cannot continue to grow without increasing the number of regular long-term doctors at the practice."

Rainbow Surgery still be able to register new babies born to currently registered patients and students returning to live with their parents who are already registered, but has struggled with a lack of funding available in Cambridgeshire. The surgery is committed to looking for a long term solution for the problem, having already attempted to recruit through national channels, and has been offered planning assistance by the Cambridge and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Meetings have also been held with the Rainbow Patient Group, who are aware and supportive of the surgery's actions.

Rainbow Surgery has won multiple awards over the years, including for patient satisfaction

Patients are advised to make the best of the services which are available, and to ensure they keep to their scheduled appointment times, with 99 appointments missed last month and around 9 hours of staff time already lost during missed appointments this month. The statement continues "In particular, if you find you don't need an appointment or can't attend, please cancel at least half an hour beforehand so there is a good chance someone else can use that valuable clinical time. This applies to our nurses and health care assistants as well as the doctors."

Dr Arun Aggarwal, one of the two remaining practitioners at the award-winning Surgery, offered this advice to residents: "Prevention is significantly better than picking up the pieces once a problem has developed. Do all you can to keep active and eat healthily. Our nurses are happy to help if you need support to quit smoking. We have extra input from Everyone Health who come to the surgery on Monday afternoons to help with lifestyle advice. Please do not go to Casualty for things that are more appropriately dealt with by your GP or nurse. The Casualty departments in every local hospital are heaving with serious problems and they do not need a rise in number of minor problems. If you do go to Casualty and the nurse making an initial assessment of you considers your problem not urgent, there is a very high chance you will be waiting 4 hours or longer. Please help us to help you make the most of the NHS we have currently got. Things could get worse before they get better!"

Housing plans approved by Council

A controversial new plan to situate over 100 new homes in Ramsey has been approved by the Town Council following a close vote.

Abbey Properties Cambridgeshire, which has applied for planning permission in a number of local areas, submitted plans to Huntingdonshire District Council for outline planning permission to build 141 homes on land off Biggin Lane.

The 22-acre site, which is to the north and south of the current road, is largely used for farming and is split between two separate fields.

In documents provided to the district council, Abbey Properties referenced the site's inclusion in the Local Plan to 2036, which has been formulated over several years. The documents stated: "The development of the site would create some further development to the edge of this part of Ramsey. This was envisaged by the local planning authority given that the site was part of a previous allocation for housing". Plans also include a roundabout in Biggin Lane in order to accommodate the additional traffic movements both entering and leaving the area.

Ramsey Town Council approved the measures in a close vote on Thursday 25th (August). After some debate, three councillors voted for the measure and two against, with one abstention. Concerns were also raised about current infrastructure, and the difficulties people living in the proposed area will face.

Mayor Adela Costello commented on the public participation, saying she was "surprised that no-one supporting or opposing came to the meeting. The final decision will now go to planners at Huntingdonshire District Council.

Warboys Parish Council reject cinema plans

Councillors on the Warboys Parish Council have rejected a controversial new planning application for a drive-in cinema on the outskirts of the village.

Plans for the new establishment were submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council earlier this month, and include a concessions shop with a western theme. According to the planning submission made by Peterborough resident Jason Dean, the venue would be limited to a maximum of 70 cars per showing, while floodlighting would be turned off during films.

The proposed site in Fenside Road would be manned by one employee at all times, although planning documentation suggests that this role might be split between two or more-part time employees, and that there would be minimal impact to the environment.

However, councillors voted to refuse permission for work to begin on the site this month, citing a number of concerns. Chief amongst these was the potential 2:00 am closing time, which would leave up to seventy vehicles traveling through the village after midnight, while other objections included the potential for light and noise position, given that the site is only approximately half a mile from built up residential areas.

A lack of value to the community was also noted in the planning application, which makes no mention of what the drive-in cinema might bring to the local area and leaving plenty of unanswered questions.

Despite the Parish Council's recommendation plans may still be approved by District Council Planners.

ABBEY COLLEGE GOES BACK TO THE BLAZER

A decade on from the amalgamation of the Abbey and Ailwyn schools, the Abbey College Ramsey is returning to the blazer as part of a school uniform update.

Early in 2016, representatives from the student body joined the Senior Leadership Team at Abbey College to discuss student views on their uniform. They wanted clarification on the current expectations but also wanted to express their view on a possible change of the uniform worn by all students. According to school communications, students "wanted a uniform they would be proud to wear, not only at school but to a future interview. They wanted a uniform that was more aspirational and smart."

After the formation of a Uniform Committee, comprised of staff and students, a new uniform was compiled with the help of School Plus and the Board of Governors. Changes were extensively costed and are said to be very reasonably priced, while test-washing has determined that the colours will not run or fade.

The new uniform is to consist of a white shirt, a blue clip on tie and a blue blazer, with a jacket option available to girls, accentuated with a house badge pin. The stripes on the tie will represent the year of entry and there is an optional black jumper available to all students. Black trousers, skirts and shoes are also available. The school logo is not expected to change, and sixth form students will retain their own smart dress code.

The new uniform is expected to be phased in over the next two years, with all new students joining this September wearing the new uniform and current students wearing the older style until 2017, so as to alleviate the financial burden for families and allow student to out-grow their clothes naturally. Students are also expected to wear their blazer or jacket while moving around the site, but will be able to remove the items in lessons and during free time.

Eccentrics open Ramsey Branch!

Ramsey was visited by Lord Toby Jug this month, as his Eccentric Party of Great Britain opened a new local branch.

The former Loony Party candidate came to town not only to open his new branch in the Jolly Sailor, which will now hold monthly party meetings on a Thursday (date to be announced), but also to search for Ramsey councillor and UKIP leadership candidate Lisa Duffy, to whom he offered advice given his extensive leadership experience in his own party.

After spending a short time speaking to the press and public in the Jolly Sailor, Lord Toby took to the streets with Eccentric Party Chairman Lord Bungle, bringing the message of the Eccentrics to Ramsey's citizens, whether they wanted it or not! Policy of the day was the banning of duffle-coats, in opposition to Cllr Duffy's call to ban the burka in certain situations.

The occasion was marked by Nick Charles, founder of the Gainsborough Foundation and Lord Toby's biographer, finding a genuine Toby jug in Abbey Antiques. Lord Toby's nickname originates from his former mentor and Loony Party founder Screaming Lord Sutch, who remarked that his lordship bore a significant resemblance to the famous jugs.

Commenting on Cllr Duffy's bid for the leadership, Lord Toby stated that "she can lead UKIP on the road to nowhere like I lead the Eccentric Party on the road to nowhere".

Lord Toby Jug posing with the 'Duffel coat'

Holme fly-tipper fined

Huntingdonshire District Council has demonstrated that it does not pay to fly-tip after successfully prosecuting a man caught fly-tipping in Holme Fen.

Peterborough resident Andrew Ayling was interviewed in February 2016 by the Council's Enforcement Officer, who had investigated a number of black bags and cardboard that had been fly-tipped in Holme Fen. Mr Ayling attended the interview under caution where he admitted the offence.

On August 10th, Mr Ayling was found guilty by Peterborough Magistrates of the offence of fly-tipping and received a fine of £150. He has also been ordered to pay a Victim Surcharge of £20 and costs of £300.

Councillor Robin Carter, Executive Councillor for Environment, Street Scene and Operations commented on the case, saying: "The Council receives a large number of reports of fly-tipping from its residents. This case demonstrates the importance of incidents being reported to the Council so that investigations, clean-up and enforcement activities can be undertaken. The Council will continue to take a firm stance to the continued blight on our environment that the illegal disposal of waste creates."

The Council takes reports of fly-tipping very seriously, and this successful prosecution should send a strong message to residents that offences of this kind will not be tolerated in the District. HDC also advised residents that it is their responsibility to ensure that the person offering any home collection disposal service is a reputable contractor who will dispose of the waste correctly.

If you need to dispose of waste, there are also three Household Recycling Centres in Huntingdonshire at Alconbury, Bluntisham and St Neots. Further information about what can be recycled at these centres can be found at www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Macmillan COFFEE EVENING

Benwick Ladies Club

Are holding a coffee evening on Thursday the 15th of September 2016 in Benwick Village Hall - 7pm until 9pm

Refreshments / Raffle during the evening all proceeds to Macmillian Nurses.

WE NEED YOU

The Ramsey and Warboys Reporter is seeking any old photographs or other images of the Ramsey Market. If you have, or know of any such images, please get in touch...

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Benwick Graduate earns top prize

Former Abbey College student Scott Hickson has been awarded a top prize in mathematics after graduating from University.

Scott, who has moved back to Benwick before embarking on a masters in Canterbury, graduated from Sterling university with a BSc in Mathematics. The prize was awarded by the Institute for Mathematics and it's Applications at a special ceremony at the end of the year for Outstanding Performance in the Final Year of a Mathematics Course.

Scott puts his success down to what he describes as "an early mid-life crisis half way through second year", after which he began to focus on mathematics as his main subject. Sterling currently follows the standard, four-year degree course offered by most Scottish universities, which allows for a far broader curriculum in the first two years before students begin to specialize in the latter two years.

"I wasn't going to do maths, originally I was going to do economics", says Scott, "but then I figured I might as well do the maths modules, and as it went on I realised I was enjoying the maths modules more than my own subjects. That's when I decided to change".

Scott also spoke of his feelings upon winning the award, although he did admit he is still unsure about what lies after his masters degree. "I was very surprised by it. I was more confused to begin with, and when I realise what it was I felt quite good. Then, when I was at the award meeting, I was speaking to one of the PHD students who four years ago had won the same award. I said to him, perhaps I can be where you are in four years!"

Every year the IMA awards prizes to university and college students who obtain outstanding results in mathematics. Each institution in the UK that runs IMA approved courses may nominate two prize-winners each year. The prize-winners receive a special certificate and a year's free membership of the Institute, allowing them to use the post nominal AMIMA.

ABBEY COLLEGE BREAKS GCSE RECORD

Students and staff at the Abbey College are enjoying their best ever GCSE results, with around 68 percent of student achieving A* to C grades.

Top students achieved up to seven A* grades, with the overall standard up fourteen percent on the previous year. Headmaster Andy Christoforou is said to be thrilled at the result, and expressed his pride in both the students and teachers for their record breaking year.

In line with the new government statistical measurements, the Progress 8 score, the collage measured in at 0.36, ostensibly showing that students are on average making greater than expected progress. This figure is crucial for the establishment, as it will determine the school's position in overall performance tables from this year. This figure is to be confirmed later this year, in line with the Department for Education's national adjustments.

Ricky takes over at TSB

The Ramsey branch of TSB has promoted Ricky Brown to branch manager following the sudden departure of Alan Mee.

Ricky, who is originally from Peterborough, only began his banking career approximately two and a half years ago, starting out in the Long Causeway branch. He moved over to Ramsey for nine months originally before transferring out due to illness last year, before returning several months ago.

Ricky thanked the current TSB team for making his transition into the managerial role a smooth one, saying "The girls on the front desk, they are amazing. The thing about the Ramsey Branch is it works well as a unit, whereas in some other branches you don't have everyone coming across as all team players, so to speak, especially when you have targets. We don't work on targets anymore, but that's how it was, and here they know everything they are doing and it takes a lot of pressure off me. If it weren't for the girls out the front and the support they provide, I might have sunk rather than swam".

Outside of work, Ricky tends to relax and enjoy time with his partner and family, although he does intend to continue the trend of charity work started under Alan Mee's tenure, including supporting the nominated branch charity which is yet to be revealed.

TSB is also transferring in another member of staff to fill Ricky's former role, which he has been covering alongside his managerial duties during the transitional period.

Ramsey Phoenix Project...

...has been busy over the last few months. The sessions around 'Organising a Ghost Hunt' are coming to an end and the participants are putting the final touches to their Ghost Hunt, which is booked for 31st October at The George Hotel in Ramsey. Advertising and tickets will be available in early September, please come and join us.

There has been a small group working towards this event and Wendy commented that 'As I worked along with other team members the idea started to take shape – it was going to be a process of investigation all the way'. She also stated that 'Don't miss your chance, tickets are limited and see the case proved by the use of scientific equipment and watch it monitor ghostly activity. See if we are able to reveal something out of the ordinary'.

The last two evenings have been very enjoyable – come and see what it's all about.

The new Phoenix courses for the Autumn are based around caring for your domestic animals. There are various speakers coming to help us understand our animals and how they can help us. We are also having local businesses joining us to let you know how and why they set up their own businesses. We will also offer opportunities to prepare your CV, have some interview experience and look at the opportunity of setting up your own Social Enterprise business.

Other courses being offered in Ramsey this Autumn:

Level 1/Level 2 Maths and English courses at Ramsey Abbey College (evening classes)

Employability Course t Ramsey Abbey College (day time session once a week for 30 weeks)

Green Skills training – (bags for life) Starts in November, work towards a CSCS card.

GAP Learning are returning to Ramsey in November with their Craft and Cooking courses

Please call, email or call in to register for any of these courses.

Rescued seal lands at Conington

An injured seal was successfully airlifted to Conington Airfield this month, before being taken to East Winchester Wildlife Sanctuary for treatment. The seal, which has been nicknamed 'Flying Saucer' due to his aerial antics, had suffered injuries to its mouth and needed special care provided by the RSPCA at the East Winch Sanctuary, which caters to the needs of seals from all over the country. It is not known where or how the seal was originally injured.

Staff at the sanctuary confirmed that Flying Saucer is making steady progress and has been moved out of isolation. He was said to be quite happy in his current environment, and while still not back to 100% fitness was recovering nicely. They thanked Conington Airfield for allowing the transfer to take place on their site.

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Dream Clean run one of the most professional and reliable cleaning services in the East of England and are fully equipped to deal with almost every possible cleaning situation.

Who Are They?

Dream Clean started out in the mind of Nick Jones, who decided in 2004 that he could beat the competition and start his own cleaning company. As they often say, behind every great man is a great woman, and it was Nick's wife Wendy who came up with the Dream Clean name.

For nine months, Nick worked alone (and occasionally with Ruby the Dog) in order to build up enough business and begin employing others. Now, Dream Clean is a limited company, employing thirty four members of staff and a fleet of thirteen vehicles.

What do they do

Put simply, if it can be cleaned then Dream Clean can do it! Need your business cleaned? They know how crucial it is to keep things neat and tidy, and offer the highest possible standard of work leaving you free to run things. Having domestic trouble? No company are involved in this work more than Dream Clean, who cater for any needs from cleaning up after a party to carrying out a regular contract. Finally, they can also deal with your more specialised cleaning needs, having been involved with clearing hazardous waste for many years. They even operate cleaning services to the exacting standards demanded by the military for cleaning their premises when regiments march out.

Who can they help?

Again, the list is as long as it is impressive. Past customers include tenants, homeowners, housing associations, commercial agents, retail premises, industrial buildings, garages, letting agents, building construction companies and even the armed forces themselves.

Dream Clean pride themselves not only on their work but their customer service and satisfaction too, which has led to a long history of repeat orders. Headquartered centrally in Huntingdonshire, Dream Clean have serviced clients as far afield as Stamford and Bedford, making them the top choice for the local area.

Why Choose Dream Clean?

If you run a busy business, or an even busier home, you know how important it is you have someone you can rely on. Dream Clean really do dream about taking on those jobs you can't, or won't, do by yourself. So give them a try, you won't be disappointed.

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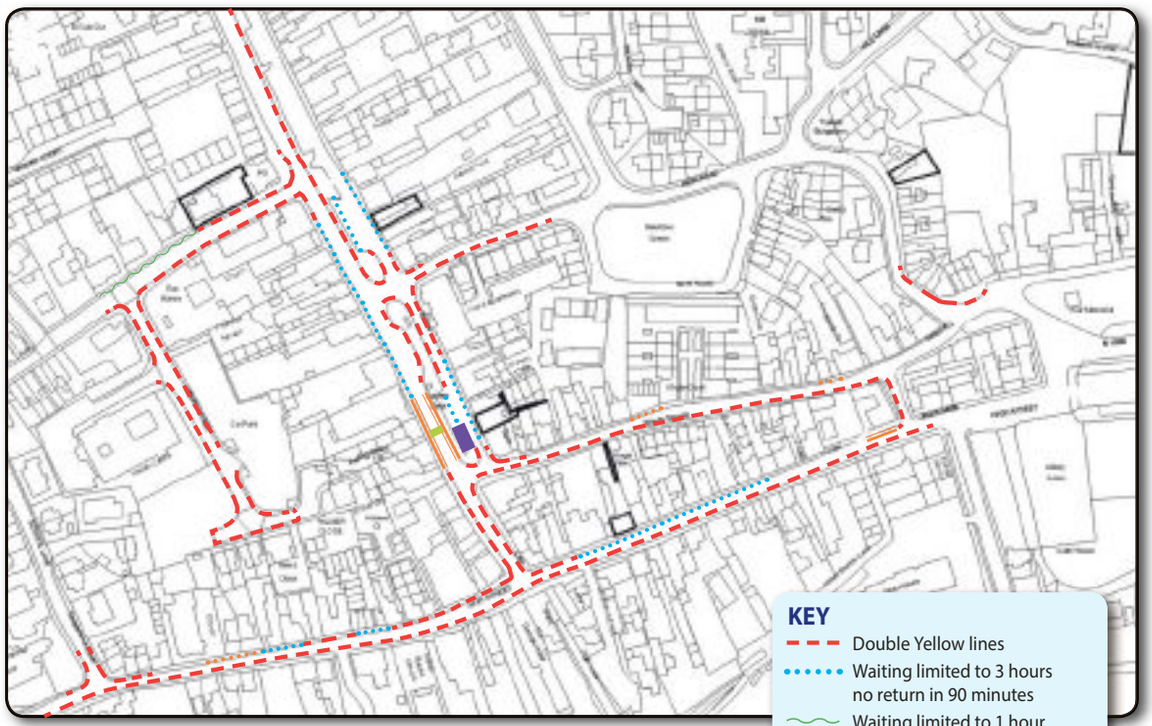
To find out more, check their website www.dreamcleanservices.co.uk

NEW PARKING RESTRICTIONS

FOR RAMSEY TOWN CENTRE



©2016 Map courtesy of HDC - additions by Ramsey Reporter

New restrictions on daytime parking are to be enforced in Ramsey Town Centre before the end of 2016, over a year since plans were originally formulated.

The new measures, which have been approved by Ramsey Town Council, will restrict the majority of on-street parking in the town centre to a three-hour maximum stay, with no return during the next 90 minutes. The new system has been designed to allow shoppers to spend ample time in the town centre, including calculating the length of time an average haircut would take, given the number of barbers and hair salons currently in business. Other areas will benefit from double yellow lines, including the second bend in New Road, around which the view is often obstructed by parked cars. Plans confirm that current disabled parking will remain in place, and the mews car-park will not be effected.

The process of changing the restrictions began around 18 months ago, when police encountered difficulty enforcing four different parking restrictions ranging from 30 mins up to two hours. It was decided that, as two hours was approximately the amount of time people might wish to spend in town, the best option would be a three-hour time limit, enforced from 9am to 3pm.

Ian Curtis, who has spearheaded the project in recent months, commented that proposals had been met with approval by most residents affected, saying "you can never please everyone, but the only negatives we had originally were when they were going to put the double yellow lines down the end of Little Whyte, because there is nowhere for people to park there, but that's been quashed now."

He did originally recommend parking permits for businesses and residents, and questioned the nature of the District Council's decision not to allow such measures, saying: "For some reason, and I've never got to the bottom of it, they won't allow Ramsey to have resident parking permits. All the market towns have got it, but not Ramsey. No-one would give us a definitive answer why, they just said they did not want to offer residents parking Ramsey. Ramsey always comes at the bottom of the list".

He also confirmed that the new parking arrangements would be enforced by the police, and that they would be looking to implement the new system as soon as possible, saying "It's still got to go out for consultation, but if all goes well it will be in place by the end of the year".

Aside from the additions made to the map above, parking in other areas of Ramsey will not be affected, and changes will only be made after a full consultation with the public. Until then, current regulations will remain in effect.

Kids Get Creative at InspirationZ Theatre Summer Workshops

By Vanessa Norman – InspirationZ Theatre

Gospel Choir in a Day and Play in a Day prove a success as local youngsters take on the challenge to prepare for a performance in just one day.

Bury, Ramsey, UK – 25 August 2016. For two days during this summer holiday, InspirationZ Theatre held workshops that focussed on drama and singing. Gospel Choir in a Day was held on 3rd August and Play in a Day took place on 24th August.

Gospel Choir in a Day began with games and a thorough vocal warm up as we prepared to unveil an up-tempo gospel song with reggae vibes and some serious moves! The challenge was a big one but the kids really stepped up and in a short time had got their heads around the lyrics.

Play in a Day took another group of youngsters on a creative journey as they explored their dreams for the future and collaborated on how they could overcome the obstacles that may stand in the way. After warming up and improvisations, we launched into the 'Big Dream' and started our own play. The young people took the lead in every aspect of the performance including the narration, set design and the acting itself.

Rehearsals at PiaD

The final performance to friends and family at the end of both days was a fabulous showcase of talent, effort and FUN!!

We hope to hold further workshops in the near future to encourage children to see the value they have and the abilities they can develop.

Vocal Warm up at GCiaD

InspirationZ THEATRE

For more information contact: Vanessa Norman vnorman@inspirationztheatre.com Tel. 0203 287 3374 Mob. 07984 714 786

RAMSEY MARKET CHARTER CHANGES HANDS

Ramsey Market is set to be rejuvenated by a team from Ramsey Town Council, after the Council voted to take control of the market charter.

The Saturday market, which has been operated by the Ramsey Initiative for a number of years, has declined significantly and is currently only consists of one stall selling produce from Edwards Farm.

Ramsey Town Council officially accepted the offer after a close vote earlier this month. Some councillors did voice concerns that, given the current state of the market, it could not be rejuvenated without significant investment. While the paperwork is not yet concluded, the deal has been approved and it is expected that contracts will be signed in the near future.

The project is being taken on by long-time councillor Ian Curtis and current Deputy Mayor Doug McIlwain, who are discussing the possibility of bringing in a market manager to help run the market. Cllr Curtis commented that "at the end of the day, I think that the contract should sit with the Town Council. It would be nice just to get it back up and running, and get a market as opposed to just one stall. I can remember thirty odd years ago, when I moved here, it used to run right from TSB all the way down past Collins Butchers".

The market charter for Ramsey is managed by Strutt & Parker on behalf of Lord de Ramsey, and was formerly rented to Huntingdonshire District Council for a fee believed to be around £200 a year. The District Council then allowed the Ramsey Initiative to run the market. However, this year Lord de Ramsey's estate offered the Town Council the chance to purchase the rights, believing this would simplify the process and benefit the ailing market.

Cllr Ian Curtis (pictured) along with Ramsey Deputy Mayor Doug McIlwain hope to be able to rejuvenate the Saturday market following it's dismal slump.

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NEW LOOK FOR INDIAANA

During the month of August, local Ramsey restaurant Indiaana had a makeover – inside and out.

Opened in February, 2013, Indiaana have been providing excellent food and have become the local favourite.

Manager, Abdul said, "It's the first makeover since we opened, so with the new look we are even more committed to providing quality food and service to our customers".

"In addition, we have taken on extra staff for a more efficient service; especially on deliveries," he added.

The new look has attracted a great deal of compliments from diners, who like the colour scheme and general ambiance of the restaurant.

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RAMSEY JUNIOR SCHOOL YEAR 4 BENGAL RESTAURANT REVIEWS

The Bengal
Est 1987

As mentioned in our July edition, we are reproducing some of the entertaining and positive reviews from the year 4 students from Ramsey Junior School.

As part of a topic to learn about their local town - which included field trips to local shops and businesses – the children are producing professional leaflets about Ramsey. They were invited by assistant manager Munyam Khan to a free meal at the Bengal Restaurant in the High Street and we are happy to publish some of their reviews that will appear in their leaflets.

Logan Iredale
As I walked into the stunning restaurant, lots of different, scrumptious aromas flew up my nostrils. I felt intrigued but excited. Upon the large, sizable table sat lovely antique vases with beautiful red roses inside. The welcoming atmosphere drew me in as I slowly sat down on the comfy, leather chairs. I was quickly served by a very friendly waiter and within seconds, some mouth-watering Indian food had arrived in front of me. I quickly took a huge bite out of a crunchy samosa and it was heavenly. While my taste buds tingled, the sensational chicken tikka biriyani sat there waiting to be consumed. My flavourful onion bhaji taste was stunning as all the spices collided in my mouth. It was one of the best meals I've ever had! As a thoughtful gift, we were each given a lolly as we left the restaurant. Because of the great service and amazing quality of food, I give this restaurant ten out of ten!

Lucy More
As we walked into the restaurant, me and my friends were gigging together, excited about what Indian food we were going to try. Anxious but excited, I studied the gleaming pillars and pleasant staff who gave us a very warm welcome, who guided us to our seats. Sitting down, I sank into my chair that was very comfortable. As the snappy service took place, I enjoyed eating the delicious chicken tikka with rice. There were lots of great comments about the food and the restaurant. I would definitely recommend this restaurant.

Archie Chamberlain
Nervous and shy, I entered the Bengal. When I entered, I knew I would have a great time. The teachers guided us to our seats. When I sat down, there was a bright napkin laid neatly in front of me. Then the lovely owner, Mr Khan, put out some delicious orange juice and water. In the middle of the table was a lovely bunch of flowers with little salt and pepper containers. This is the perfect place to eat with your friends.

Phoebe Pemberton
On Monday after noon I went to the Bengal, next to the Milkshake Junction on the high street. Nervous, and shy I walked in the Bengal and smelt the mouth watering food as we sat down on the leather chairs Calm and happy, the helpful waiters came round with orange juice and some iced cold water. They have lots of other drinks as well in the restaurant. As they served the food there were large onion bhajis, lots of crispy vegetable samosas, and tasty chicken tikka biryani. Check out the Bengal in Ramsey for some amazing food!

Lilia Plato
Giggling with my friends, we were waiting to go into the Bengal restaurant on the High Street. As I walked in, I went silent and admired surroundings and wonderful, spicy scents coming from the kitchen. The tables were set out beautifully with red and white table cloths and small, white china vases with multi-coloured flowers in them. Thrilled, excited and amazed, I was guided by a helpful waiter who took us to our table. While I waited, I was thinking about what the food would be like. When it arrived, I closed my eyes and took a big bite. It was so delicious that I ate it all up and even had seconds! If I rated this restaurant, I would rate it a ten out of ten!

Ramsey library
Friends of Ramsey Library
Arts Alive

BEATRIX POTTER WEEK

The 150th Anniversary of Beatrix Potter was celebrated at Ramsey Library. Librarian, Mary Hobbs, organised the events with a display of books and other ems, a quiz and pictures to colour in. On Saturday the Friends of Ramsey Library assisted with craft activities, such as fox masks, cat door handle hangers and bookmarks, all connected to a creature from Beatrix Potter's stories. Several children had their faces painted in different designs and, as usual, delicious refreshments were available.

If your child loves books, illustrations and crafts then you need to make sure that they come to Ramsey on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th October. Why? Because Ram Jam is back for the third year. In case you don't know, Ram Jam is a book festival for children, organised by Cambridgeshire Library Services and Ramsey Library Board. For the past two years it was held at Ramsey Junior School and Ramsey Library on a Saturday in October. This year the format is different and it will be held over a weekend and only at the library. Authors, illustrators and crafters will be there to inspire, guide and entertain children aged between 4 and 11 years.

The Lion Learners will bring a selection of creatures to captivate the audience (and no doubt send a few shivers down the spines of some of the adults). Talented illustrator Steve Smallman, returns for a second visit. Steve was very popular when he came in 2014. Newcomers to Ram Jam are Alison Limentani and Matty Long. Both have had books in the "Read It Again" competition and many of the children will have read their books "How Much Does A Ladybird Weigh" and "Super Happy Magic Forest."

For the older children, Irina Richards will be holding a Comic Book Workshop, a great opportunity for comic fans. Trudi Esberger and Carolina Rabei will be telling stories and holding craft sessions. Marian Savill will also be holding one of her collage activities, a popular event at many local libraries. Finally new author, James Nicol who works for Cambridgeshire Libraries, will be talking about his recently published book "The Apprentice Witch."

Look out for more information at the library, on posters, on the web at Discover Ramsey and in Ramsey Neighbourhood News and The Reporter in the next few weeks. There will be lots of fun for children to have during the October weekend of 29th and 30th. Don't miss out, IT'S FUN, IT'S FREE, IT'S LOCAL.

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HEAD START NURSERY

VISIT LITTLE MIRACLES FOLLOWING SUMMER FETE

By ***Aimee Golightly*** Head Start Nursery School, Ramsey

The Money raised from our Fun Day we had back in July, was used to buy toys for the Little Miracles Charity based in the Locality Centre in Ramsey. The children had a wonderful adventure setting out on our fully equipped mini bus, the children sang 'Wheels on the bus' all the way there.

When we arrived we were greeted with a lovely welcome from all the children and the staff. The children had a lovely time exploring all the new toys and resources they had set out as well as meeting new children to talk to and play with.

New toys

The Little Miracles do amazing work not just locally but all over the county and fully rely on donations. The children really enjoyed seeing the other children's faces when they presented them with the new toys and equipment they had got for them. We had a lovely time at Little Miracles and would like to thank them for their hospitality.

We currently have **availability for September** bookings.
For more information about nursery places please contact us on:
01487 710709 or headstartramsey@gmail.com.

PERSEVERANCE AND PRAYER PAYS OFF

PERSEVERANCE AND PRAYER PAYS OFF

Finally, after 10 years of perseverance and prayer the internal work to St. Thomas a Becket Church began on 3rd August 2016. To install 2 toilets and upgrade the kitchen facilities, all for the good of our community.

The project began many years ago but gathered a little speed after a Feasibility Study was undertaken in 2007, when a small committee of 4 met under the umbrella of Finance and Property.

As more community groups began using the Church the single toilet facility and the cupboard sized kitchen created difficulties. A temporary ramp was purchased to help with wheelchairs, buggies and prams but a long-term solution was needed.

Toddlers, Seniors, Food Bank, Concerts, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and the well attended Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Services have progressed the need for better facilities. Not to mention the summer Band Concerts (all those cups of tea).

To this end a Fund raising committee (known as Re-ordering in Church jargon) was formed in 2011 under the Chairmanship of Richard Hyde with regular committee meetings, events throughout the year and enthusiasm which is now proving fruitful.

As the first phase for the toilets and kitchen a total of £63, 000 was raised with the help of some grant funding from Grantscape, Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust and Ramsey Rotary Club.

Also the many generous private individuals who gave us real incentive.

The committee will now concentrate on raising money for a permanent ramp to access the toilets and kitchen where steps prove difficult. So… more concerts, 200 Club draws, quizzes, maybe an auction again.

Whatever happens the Committee will continue to Persevere and Pray and fund-raise, and with the help of the community of Ramsey to support us, we will achieve our aims.

Sylvia King Secretary Fund-Raising Committee

Second auction for Thomas à Becket Church raises **£2,100**

In aid of improvement of facilities, Thomas à Becket Church ran their second auction on 23rd July.

Hundreds of people turned out to make bids on 300 lots, with the event raising £2,100.

Teas were also served by a strong team of volunteers and auctioneers were Paul Goldsmith of Oundle and Richard Hyde.

RAMSEY ROTARY NEWS

School group photograph

Coffee Morning in aid of The Davids School

Newest Ramsey Rotary Club member Sylvia Abblitt held a coffee morning at her home in Pondersbridge in aid of The Davids School in Sierra Leone raising a fantastic sum of £447.20. Visitors to the event also gave useful craft material which will be forwarded to the school including several sewing machines which will be repaired and serviced where necessary before being shipped to the school.

The school set up by Rotary Club member David Wallwork following the civil war in Sierra Leone. David was on a visit to Freetown in 2005, as part of a group working to extend a Fistula Clinic operated by Mercy Ships.

Whilst working there David was invited to go 'up country' to collect some equipment and it was at a farm that he saw an opportunity for a recently retired secondary head teacher to make a difference.

Lack of electricity supply hand or treadle sewing machines are a must

For the full story of how David went about setting up the school go to the web site www.thedavidschool,co,uk/about/davids-story/

The school is a registered charity, has 300 pupils and receives support from many Rotary Clubs and other organizations including Ramsey Community School, Spinning Infants, Ashbeach School, School Plus, Ramsey Vehicle Sales, Tesco and Ramsey's twin Rotary Club of Volda in Norway.

New Rotary Member

(left to right) President Chris Wick, Sylvia Abblett, daughter Louise James and sponsor Rotarian Jenny Stratton

New Club President Chris Wick had the pleasure to induct a new member, Sylvia Abblett, into the world of Rotary at the club meeting on August 23rd.

Sylvia has had a varied career, a farmers wife, volunteer teacher of handicrafts for disabled and stroke victims and a book keeper Although now retired Silvia has worked tirelessly fund raising, most recently for Rotary and The Davids School in Sierra Leone.

Sylvia was accompanied by her daughter Louise to the event.

Fun Run Beneficiaries

The list of beneficiaries from the Fun Run 2016 are:-

Ramsey Junior School £582.30
Ramsey Spinning Infants £366.75
Upwood Primary School £306.00
Friends of Ashbeach School £13.50
Hunts Community Cancer Network (Woodlands Centre) £121.50
Ramsey Pre-School £18.00
Cancer Research UK £36.00
1st Bury and Upwood Scouts £180.00
1st Ramsey Scouts £72.00
Cambs Primary Trust Special Care Baby Unit £36.00
"A Second Chance" Animal Rescue £46.00
Little Miracles £120.00
Total £1898.05

Awards for highest sponsorship went to:

Boy under 8 years Theo McCarthy £57.50 for Ramsey Junior School
Girl under 8 years Katherine Bryan £135.00 for the Woodlands Centre
Boy over 8 years Samuel Douthwaite £56.00 for Ramsey Junior School
Girl over 8 years Katie Phillips £225 for Upwood Primary School
Award for highest overall sponsorship total went to: Katie Phillips.

Katie Phillips who raised £225 for Upwood school

Rotary Turns Purple

Rotarian's John Arkle and Gina Randall taking orders for purple crocus

At the recent Ramsey Horticultural Society show Rotary had a display stand selling crocus's as part of the Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland Purple4Polio campaign, which encourages everyone to join together in the final push to eradicate polio worldwide.

Backed by legendary singer-song-writer, Donovan, and former Blue Peter presenter, Konnie Huq, the campaign was launched at a prestigious event on the River Thames. Tower Bridge was raised and glowed purple on the backdrop of the river as the campaign was launched,

This campaign will see Rotary clubs across Britain and Ireland taking part in wide, varied and fun activities highlighting the Purple4Polio campaign to help Rotary End Polio Now. One exciting part of the campaign will be a collaboration, which will see Rotary team up with the Royal Horticultural Society's Bloom Groups to transform public spaces and brighten up local communities by planting five million purple crocus corms across Britain and Ireland. We look forward to Ramsey taking part with a show of purple crocus in the town.

Ramsey Rotary will have 4,000 crocus corms to sell locally. If readers would like to take part please contact a Rotary Club member or go to the web site for details.

District Governor Citation

President Chris Wick presenting past President Jeremy Hyde with his District Governor Citation awarded for achieving - Membership Gain and Retention, Foundation Support and Humanitarian Service during his term of Presidency.

Forthcoming Rotary Events

Sunday 4th September
'Dragon Boat Race' Wicksteed Park Kettering

Saturday 10th September
'Ceilidh Dance' at the Drill Hall Ramsey 1940's Camp

Saturday 8th October
'Last Night at the Proms' at the Abbey School

Wednesday 12th October
'Fashion Show' at Ramsey Golf Club

HOLIDAYS + TRAVEL

Which Greek Island is best for me?

When it comes to choosing which Greek Island would suit your needs is it all Greek to you!

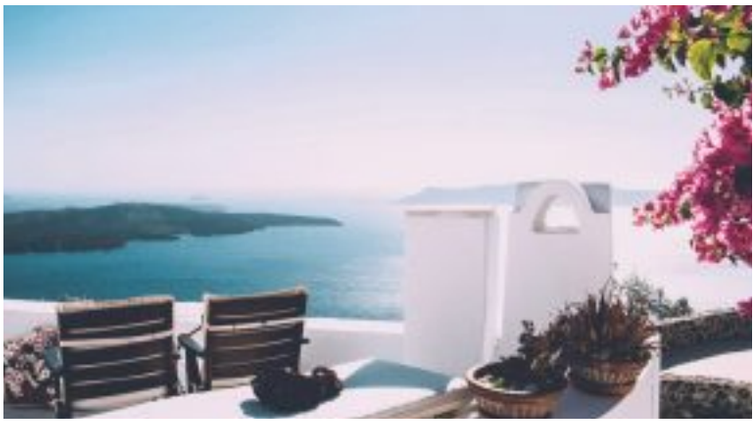
A mixture of the Ionian and Aegean seas, the Greek islands are very similar and very diverse, so it's hardly surprising you ask yourself which Greek island is best for me to visit? Greece has 6,000 islands, although only 227 are inhabited …So rather than spending hours researching yourself you can sit back, relax and read our recommendations.

If its luxury you are looking for then look no further than **Santorini**, you will be able to find 5* luxury through many Greek islands but Santorini is the exclusive Greek destination of choice. It is the perfect mixture of tradition and glamour. The island is built on the remains of a volcano so does not have the typical white beaches but instead intriguing black and red sand and rocks. The not-to-be-missed sight is the renowned Santorini sunset; an interrupted and truly beautiful spectacle. **Skiathos** has a choice of luxury villas, it's the smallest of the Greek Island and one of the locations chosen for the hit movie '**Mamma Mia**'. It is a truly beautiful island with over 65 beaches. **Kefalonia** and **Ithaca** both have luxury villas, and boutique resorts, offering 5* luxury. Both are charming islands, ideal for couples.

If you want a party holiday, or just some exciting nightlife there are a range of Greek Island destinations to suit you. The main Greek party islands are **Mykonos, Ios, Corfu, Rhodes, Kos, Zante and Paros**. During high season those islands get really crowded with tourists of all ages, mostly youth though, eager to have fun. Clubbing, barhopping and sexy beach parties are on top of the list. Paradise beach on **Mykonos** hosts 24 hours parties for a mixed gay/straight crowd, while there are beach parties almost every night. **Zante** is the place to be if you have the energy. Full of golden sandy beaches, water sports activities and wild nightlife. **Mykonos**, is known for its club scene and beach parties, it also has more culture than other party islands with typical Greek windmills, traditional churches, white-washed houses with brightly flowering balconies as well as the 'Little Venice' area. The biggest rival to Mykonos is **Kos** fighting for the title of party capital it is more aimed at backpackers and students and there are only really two things to do, party all night and sunbathe/ relaxation (recover) all day. **Corfu, Rhodes** and **Kos** also have areas with a very active party scene. **Faliraki** is the party town on **Rhodes**, it's **Kavos** in **Corfu** and **Kos Town** in **Kos**. Here you will see the younger generation partying hard and enjoying themselves.

The Greek islands are best known as a fabulous family holiday destination. **Kefalonia** has some of the best beaches within the Greek islands along with bustling towns, authentic Greek culture, cave lakes, picturesque villages and numerous bars and cafes. **Rhodes** is another excellent choice, Rhodes typically has 300 days of sunshine each year so is suited to those looking to go out of peak season as well families sticking to the summer holidays. **Rhodes old town** is a picture postcard destination with lots of history, including the remains of the **Colossus of Rhodes**, a striking castle and a water park. A cultural visit to the **Acropolis of Lindos**, the ruins of a citadel, will tick off your needs to explore some history. **Corfu** with a wealth of natural beauty, a rich culture that spans centuries and a gentle magnetic appeal, it is easy to see what draws families here. Renowned as a place of beauty, culture and hospitality since ancient times, **Corfu** plays a part in many ancient myths and legends. It has a mixture of the cosmopolitan and the traditional. **Kos** is known for its abundant sandy beaches. It is also rich with Greek and Roman antiquities, particularly in and around **Kos Town**. This harbour city is dominated by the 15th century Castle of the Knights fortress. One of the most popular destinations in Greece, with some of the lowest hotel rates in Greece. **Zakynthos (Zante)** combines mountain and sea. Zante isn't just for parties, on Zante you will find a mixture of quiet villages, pretty cove beaches and restaurants keeping there traditional aspect of the past together with the Greek joy of life, taste traditional dishes and local cuisine all around the island. **Samos** is a fairly large island with forests and with many places to visit. It has very nice beaches, plenty of shops, restaurants and bars plus many places of interest. It's lovely as it has still not been over commercialised. **Lesvos** countryside is dotted with mountains and large olive groves. Discover sights, from roman aqueducts to Byzantine monasteries and castles. **Thassos** is one of the greenest islands with a near perfect climate of hot summer sun and cool winters with a little wind and rain mixed in. There is something very authentic about **Thassos**. It's mountainous and volcanic in origin, try taking a trip along the attractive coastal road and discover some excellent photo opportunities.

Finally if you still cannot decide and you want a bit of everything then perhaps **Crete** is for you, from sandy beaches, water sport and vibrant nightlife, trekking through Europe's longest gouge, venetian villages and busy cities and most importantly delicious traditional food with recipes passed down through the generations, you will not run out of things to do in **Crete**. Alternatively visit **Naxos**, there's a lively waterfront with many tavernas and interesting shops, overlooked by a superb Venetian castle dating back to the 13th century.



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Coyote Calling play Cross Keys

Patrons of the Cross Keys in Upwood were treated to a special performance by local band Coyote Calling during a BBQ event on Bank Holiday Sunday.

Formed by members of Black Smoke Symphony, who are still touring and recording, Coyote Calling consists of Upwood resident James Erskine on vocals and acoustic guitar, with Charlie Luscombe providing accompaniment on lead guitar.

The performance also included Black Smoke regular Toby Bass, who offered a surprising amount of variation on the limited drum kit Coyote uses during performances.

The pairing grew out of the more serious performances of Black Smoke Symphony, as James ex-plained: "We've been playing with Black Smoke and recording a couple of songs and a video. We've been playing a few festivals locally too, played Kingstock a couple of weeks ago, which was awesome and had a great atmosphere. We've kinda been doing a lot of that, but at the same time we've missed what we were doing as a duo, so we decided to re-brand ourselves lightly and take what we were doing as black smoke and put something new together, which is how Coyote formed".

Unfortunately, inclement weather forced a move inside, but BBQ food was still delivered courtesy of the kitchen and Coyote were able to bring the crowd three sets, including original material and acoustic covers of hits from the last half century. James and Charlie also played their most recent release, Coming Home.

James later commented on the Cross Keys itself, saying "It's really coming into its own now, it's a nice little community pub and the kind of place we like to play".

With an excellent turnout, it is expected another similar event will take place in the future.

Local butchers takes bull by the horns and opens new steakhouse

Johnston's of Oldhust is already known for its unusual approach to the farming trade, with its butcher shop, parrots, crocodiles, farm café and regular school trips. Now, the family-run farm is branching out in another direction: opening a brand new restaurant.

The Jiggers Steakhouse opened its doors for the first time on Saturday 27th August for a viewing event which was widely attended, filling most of the tables in the brand new, two-story structure which lies opposite the farm café.

Fortunately for the packed tables, food was served promptly by the staff, of which more than twenty may be employed. Rich pickings included chicken wings and mini-burgers, while a surprising favourite was the mackerel pate, and despite the obvious carnivorous leanings of a steakhouse there was a vegetarian humus option that worked well with vegetable dippers.

Andrew Johnston, who currently operates the farm and its many facets, outlined his vision for the restaurant as a community venue, somewhere where locals could come for a pint and visitors could enjoy a great meal, and even a night out. "Hopefully it's going to be something different", he said, "we don't want to be treading on anyone's toes, different type of venue where we get mixed generations all together. If we get going and it works we're hoping to have a band. Because people are traveling to us, they want to have a night here, they don't want to be kicked off a table. We want somewhere where people spend time, where older people can mix with younger people and younger people can get the respect of older people".

Andy is currently building up a list of local acts, and with the dancefloor installed the establishment could also be used for parties, weddings and more. As for the future, Andrew is confident of his philosophy, saying: "we're all aware that in Cambridge-shire now there are more people than there are things to do. We all want something different to do, and if someone only comes to us once a year we'll still be full!"

The food is superb, the atmosphere is hospitable and family friendly, the bar is well stocked and the future is bright. Could this become a true local gem? Time will tell, but so far Johnston's are off to a great start!

The restaurant is already taking bookings. To find out more, visit www.johnsonsofoldhurst.co.uk/

READERS WRITE

Amongst the Pigeons

When we moved into our house some 20 years ago, what I loved about it was the morning chorus, and observing the variety of birds in the garden, we had a selection of Blue and Great Tits, Finches, Robins, Thrushes and of course the good old British Blackbird; their dawn and especially evening chorus' was a pleasure to hear.

Sitting in the garden of a summer evening, glass of wine in hand, listening to the Blackbird singing from the top of our garage roof was so pleasurable.

Sadly, over the years we have seen a decline in these good British birds, not because of us humans moving in, but they have been evicted by those ghastly pigeons, and there relentless cooing.

It certainly isn't pleasant sitting listening to them of an evening; and moreover being woken up in a morning with their incessant cooing from my roof, its relentless! Where have our good British song birds gone.?

Can anyone tell me how this has happened? Not only that, does anyone know how we can remove these horrible creatures from our backyard and bring normality and our native blackbird song back to my garden.

Steve, in Bury

Communication Breakdown

I read your article re. the O2 phone signal problem that has occurred over the last month for "several days".

My wife and I moved into Bury in mid January and have had no signal since then, the "phone mast, third party" excuse has been trotted out many times, the problem with being trapped in 2 year contracts means " sorry you put up with it or buy your way out of your contract" is their wonderful customer service response.

Ron

If its not Roadworks...

I was extremely pleased to see that work had been completed on the Great Whyte this month, until I saw what had been left behind!

We are treated to delay after delay, the district council won't even give us a date for completion, and now when we finally get our road back they leave everything in the middle of the street!

I think I speak for all the shop owners and every resident that visits them... GET OUT!

Margaret, in Ramsey

New talent brings fresh menu to the Jolly Sailor

THE JOLLY SAILOR ROLLS OUT ITS NEW MENU THIS MONTH, FOLLOWING THE HIRING OF A NEW HEAD CHEF.

By Adam Roberts

The Jolly Sailor rolls out its new menu this month, following the hiring of a new head chef.

The local establishment may be offering new dishes, hiring new staff and bringing in new, fresh food for their patrons, but remains the traditional English pub residents of Ramsey have come to know and love! Professional chef Lee Vernall heads up the new kitchen team alongside new sous-chef Matthew Redman, bringing his expertise with fresh fish to a brand-new seafood night, while still providing all the usual pub grub that has made the Jolly Sailor one of the most popular venues in Ramsey.

Lee, who moved to Cornwall aged 19 to peruse his culinary passion, began his career at a fish-and-chip shop, before working his way up to head chef at the Judges restaurant, catering for over 80 covers. Having relocated back to the local area in 2002, Lee has worked locally at establishments such as the Plough. He also spent time as head chef for Farmers Carvery, serving up to 350 covers, and as an accredited head chef at Mitchells and Butlers. Lee hopes to turn his experience into dining bliss for regulars and new customers alike.

Top billing on the new menu is the seafood night, which provides fresh fish and other assorted seafood's on Wednesday Night. A variety of fresh seafood dishes will be available, ranging from freshly steamed mussels or king prawns to whole baked seabass, grilled red snapped or even freshly cooked lobster. While some dishes may require ordering in advance, and certainly booking will be a must, this brings a unique dining experience to the Ramsey area.

Not a fan of fish? No problem! Steak nights will still run, while the traditional Sunday Roast stays firmly on the menu alongside all the traditional pub food you would expect. Land-lady Louise, who will celebrate her eighth year in charge this October, is adamant that the pub will continue to be just that, saying "we are still very much a pub and not a restaurant". As such, locals can expect their usual guest ales and specials boards to remain up for some time to come.

As for Lee, he is looking forward to the challenges of his new role in the Jolly Sailor, which he describes as "a lovely little quaint local pub". We at The Ramsey and Warboys Reporter wish him every success, and will certainly be nipping in for a taste of the new menu!

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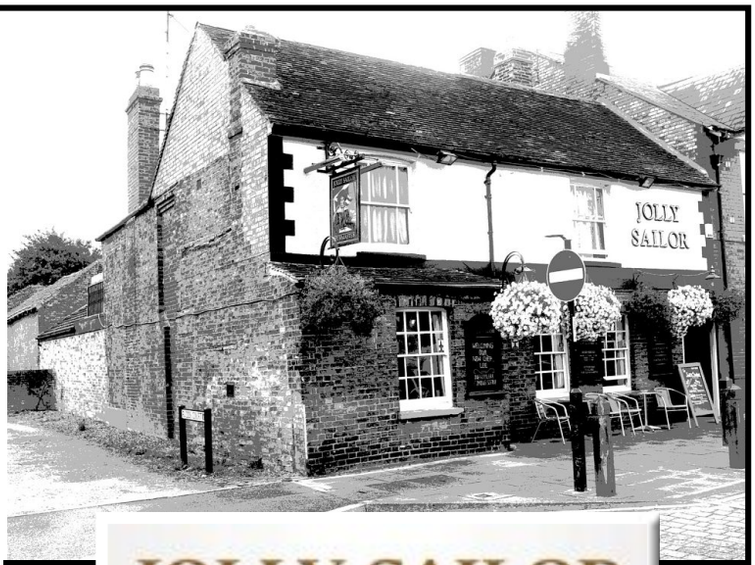

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WOMENS INSTITUTE

Abbey WI

Abbey Floral Cream Tea!

Most W.I.'s take the month of August off for a well earned rest. Abbey however has always held a themed cream tea and this year it was "floral". So ladies, guests and members from Holme, Ramsey and Ramsey St. Marys W.I.'s arrived suitably bedecked in floral attire to Bury village hall on August 4th. A glass of Pimms or elderflower cordial helped the ladies to settle themselves and after a very short business meeting the President introduced Hilary and Pauline, two talented and accomplished floral arrangers from Thomas a Becket, who effortlessly or so it seemed produced 2 flower arrangements each suitable for summer events using flowers and foliage mostly from the garden. One arrangement would also be suitable for a Christmas lunch table. As you can see from the photographs the arrangements were STUNNING. These ladies were simply fabulous and we were so lucky and grateful to them for helping out. Many more raffle tickets were sold as the arrangements were added to the raffle prizes.

A sumptuous tea had been produced by the ladies of Abbey W.I. and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. You may recall from last month that I reported the competition would be an "edible" bracelet! As I spent hours threading Cheerio's cereal onto a liquorice lace I did wonder who's bright idea that was (actually it was mine!). But the members and guests came up trumps. Pauline and Hilary who game fully agreed to judge the specimens hit a snag, we had 2 sets of bracelets one lot totally edible and the other only partially. So 2 winners were announced and the bracelets displayed.

Anagram competition

As tea came to a close an anagram competition of the names of flowers was pinned up; provided by one of Abbey's members who had been carrying it around for 30 years in case the speaker failed to show up at a meeting. How's that for initiative!

There was much scratching of heads and mutterings as the 15 minutes allotted for the quiz ticked away. Only one person got a full house, Annie Wells of Ramsey St. Mary's but prizes were awarded for 2nd and 3rd as well.

The anticipated moment of the raffle arrived with the floral arrangements taking centre stage; strangely there was less enthusiasm for the last 2 prizes of donated marrows! A truly entertaining and fun afternoon to which you would be very welcome if you think the W.I. might be for you. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Bury village hall 2:00 till 4:00; next month is a complete secret. It's members' afternoon where a small committee of members takes over from the usual elected committee and arranges an EVENT. So we don't know what we are in for except we must take a knife, fork and spoon. All will be revealed next month in my report.

For further information about Abbey W.I. feel free to contact me, Karen Prestage – President, on 01487 813848.

Ramsey St Mary's WI

August saw a change of venue for our annual members meeting. Traditionally our August meeting is organised by the members, allowing the committee a well-earned rest. We were delighted to welcome members of Ramsey Crafters who led a paper craft session at the Countryside Centre in Ramsey Heights.

Also this month St. Mary's has joined WIs nationwide by accepting a challenge set by the National Federation of WIs to recycle old bras! Due to their shape, bras make ideal hanging 'Braskets' - hanging basket containers. Our entry to the national competition features vibrant chilli peppers which perfectly complement the florescent pink 'brasket'.

Every WI is a self-funded charity, providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills. With the much appreciated help from community volunteers we once again manned the NAAFI throughout the Ramsey 1940s Weekend. As always the spam sandwiches and bread pudding went down well with the general public and the monies raised were shared between Ramsey St. Mary's WI, Little Miracles Ramsey, BOSH (activities for children between the ages of 5 and 10 years of age in the Ramsey area) and Ramsey 1940s.

For more information about the WI or find details about a WI near you visit: www.thewi.org

WI	Time & Date	Location
Ramsey Abbey	2pm – 1st Thursday	Bury Village Hall
Holme	7.30pm – 1st Thursday	Holme Village Hall
Ramsey	7.30pm – 2nd Monday	Ramsey Community Centre
Ramsey St. Mary's	7.30pm – 3rd Wednesday	The Barn, Ashbeach School
Warboys	7.15pm – 2nd Wednesday	Warboys Parish Centre
Wistow	7.30pm – 2nd Wednesday	Wistow Village Hall

Bury Parish Council report

By Jeremy Mumford

This month a lot of work has gone into the planning of a questionnaire that will be sent to all households in Bury Parish. This will be distributed via the Ramsey Informer with the next issue on the 2 September. Whilst we are delivering one copy per house, you can also download a copy from our website or complete the whole questionnaire there. So if you live in Bury and want to see our parish develop the way we want, please complete the survey. All completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw, there will be three prizes with a first prize of £100.

Scan this QR code to go to the questionnaire download

On the 3 September we will have a stall at Tesco's to publicise the Neighbourhood Plan work and the questionnaire. If you're shopping, do come and have a chat.

Bury show

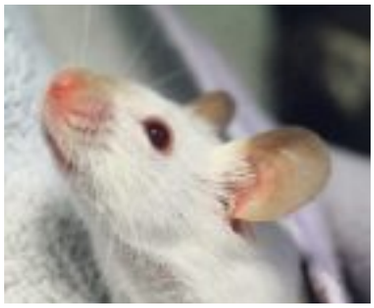
We will, of course, be at the Bury show on the 10 September; we will be in the Committee room along with the Parish Council who will be promoting the MUGA and the adult outdoor gym equipment.

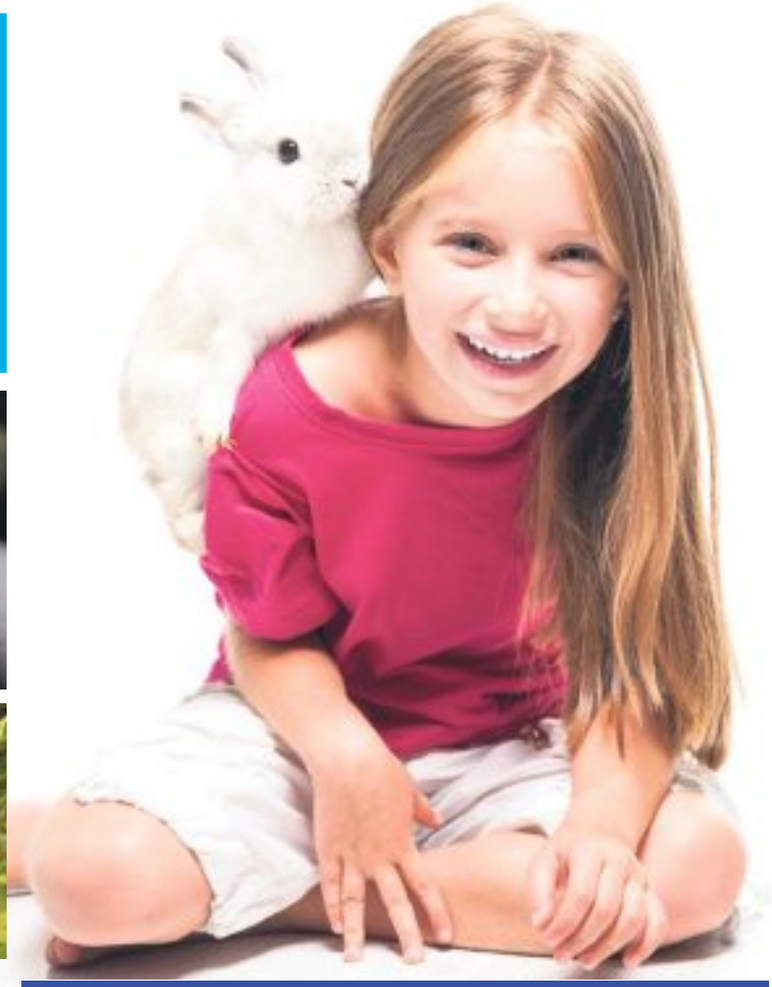
Looking forward in early October we will be holding an 'open evening'. If you want to know more about what we are doing, possibly what a Neighbourhood Plan actually is, then come along and learnt about the project. Keep an eye open for more details on this event.

Don't forget, You can tell us your ideas by using the forum on our website at www.buryvillagenp.co.uk emailing us at greattolive@buryvillage.co.uk or using one of the forms now available at the following places, Bury Stores, Bury Cakes and Pies, The White Lion, Ramsey Library and Ramsey Indoor Market.

Remember we can't do this without you; a Neighbourhood Plan is achieved by the Community for the Community!

Neutering Part 5





As you've read in our previous articles, neutering our pets has many benefits for their health, behaviour, safety and the pet population. In our final part we talk about the small furries, but it's fair to say things are a little more complicated for our pint-sized pets.

Rats, hamsters & mice – There are health risks for keeping small rodents entire (un-neutered) but it is far outweighed by the risk posed to them by general anaesthesia during the intricate neutering surgery. This high risk coupled with their lifestyle of living alone or in same sex groups means neutering is not generally recommended.

Guinea pigs – Aggression and unwanted behaviour in entire guinea pigs is not usually a problem. Neutering is normally only needed to avoid unwanted litters if males and females live together. In these cases, it's usually the boar (male) who would be neutered due to the lower risk compared to spaying the sow (female).

Another consideration if you have boars and sows is the risk of pregnancy for older females. If they are to breed, the sow must have a litter before 9-12 months old. If they are older it is highly likely her pelvis has fused, meaning natural birth is not possible. A caesarian section would be necessary and this poses a high risk to the female.

Ferrets – Neutering ferrets is a complicated subject and has many aspects to consider with regards to behaviour and health. Castrating hobs (males), vasectomizing hobs, contraceptive implants and hormone injections for jills (females) are all options but they are not without associated risks. We recommend you discuss your individual circumstances with a Vet to choose the right option for your ferrets.

Rabbits – We do recommend neutering male and female rabbits for both health and behavioural reasons. The incidence of uterine cancer is relatively high for does (females) as they age and neutering eliminates this risk. Aggression is also common in un-neutered rabbits of both sexes, and this can be directed towards other rabbits and other species (including their owners!). Neutered rabbits are generally calmer, more affectionate and easier to manage, making for a more amenable family pet. Rabbits are social animals and the best pairing is a neutered buck and neutered doe.

If you have any questions about neutering your pet, please feel free to contact **Cromwell Vets on 01487 814789.**

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Ramsey Million
Big Local ideas for Ramsey Parish

What an amazing Summer!

By Val Fendley

As I write this we're approaching the end of August and what an amazing summer we've had. Our Bring On School Holidays (BOSH) play scheme was a huge success with our best attendance yet. It's our fourth year running the scheme where we facilitate some great, affordable activities for local children during the long summer break. From day one sessions were full. There's usually a slower update from 5 year olds as they start to attend sessions for the first time and parents get used to the staff team, but not this year. The word has definitely spread and that's largely down to word of mouth from local families.

I would like to thank our staff team who are employed by Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust, our local community charity. The staff and volunteers are really professional and ensure the young people in their care are safe, engaged and most importantly having fun!

The whole team from admin through to youth workers are incredible. They're well trained, and even the volunteers have completed basic youth/play work training, first aid and child protection courses.

Here's some of the fantastic comments we've had through our Facebook page and please don't forget BOSH youthy, our weekly club for 5 to 10 year olds will be back from September 9th, 4:30 to 6pm. https://www.facebook.com/BOSHRamsey/

Cora and Jacob really enjoyed their sessions this year. Jacob had a brilliant time on Friday at Wickstead, thank you for all the time, energy and enthusiasm that you put into it.

Thank you to everyone involved in Bosh. Well done to you all. Ben has had a wonderful two weeks and can't wait till next year. Nor can his 4 year old brother, who will be old enough to come too next summer

Thank you to BOSH who make this a fantastic experience for the kids to have fun and enjoy themselves and also to make some new friends. Amber has had a ball these last two weeks and a great day yesterday to top it all.

Following BOSH we were also able to facilitate activities for 11 to 16 year olds through our CRUNCH youth programme. It's the same staff team but the focus changes to facilitate activities the young people have identified they'd like. Ten year olds who will be eleven soon and are due to move into year 7 at Abbey College were also able to attend. We wanted to make the transition from BOSH to CRUNCH as seamless as possible. It's all about bringing the young people along with us as they develop into independent young people. Making sure we listen to them about what's important to their age group is essential. Their trips to Gauntlet Auto Project, Laser Quest and Great Yarmouth also had good take-up, although we've definitely got room for more young people at youth club - back on Friday 9th September, 7pm to 9pm.

The Ramsey Million Partnership is also pleased to be facilitating and/or supporting the following activities coming soon:

Toddler Time (Soft Play) for families with under 5s - First Saturday of each month (3rd Sept & 1st Oct)

Heritage Open Day, Ramsey's Hidden Treasures - Sunday 11th September

Festival of Crafts - Saturday 24th September

For more information on any of the Ramsey Million projects please contact us:
General Enquiries & Information
The Neighbourhood Office, 25 Great Whyte, Ramsey PE26 1HG
Telephone: 01487 814897 or 07955 817137 • Email: ramseymillion@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ramseymillion • Twitter: @RamseyMillionBL
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ALL THE NEWS FROM THE

CHOCKS AWAY FOR THE 1940'S WEEKEND!

The annual spectacular at the 1940's camp wowed crowds again this month, with thousands attending the event and helping to boost the profile of Ramsey as a whole.

Held in and around the 1940's camp, which itself was formerly a searchlight site during World War 2, the 1940's weekend has become one of Ramsey's most popular tourist attractions, offering a potential 10,000 visitors access to stalls, events, parades and re-enactments complete with a unique 1940's vibe.

Visitors entered onto a ten-acre field packed with tents, selling everything from antiques to replica clothing, while charities and local organisations raised funds from the many shoppers. For some, such as the Royal British Legion, the weekend is far more than a fun day out. As Royal British Legion Huntingdon branch secretary Judith Armstrong said "There are a lot of ex-servicepeople here who may want to join the legion, maybe they haven't joined and we can encourage them to join, and also it's a really good fundraiser for us, because what we try to do here is to earn enough money to run our branch for the rest of the year, so it's a really great fundraiser for us".

Central to this space is the big-top, which committee members did admit was not in keeping with the theme, but certainly drew attention and admiration from the crowds. Inside, the band played day and night, while swing dancers inspired those seated around the floor to jump up and learn a few moves.

However, the many stalls in the field were simply the appetizer. In the camp itself, the 1940's came to life with living history displays manned by re-enactors. There were American infantrymen mingling with German field police. The Home Guard tested their P-14 rifles alongside medical tents, while tanks rumbled past laden with happy visitors. In one particularly popular corner, ten 8-month-old piglets drew crowds while the Air Raid Experience (a newcomer to the weekend) provided a taste of the blitz's gritty reality with sounds, smells and noises unique to the period. But more on that later!

Jayne Mann, deputy chair of the 1940's committee, explained that it was quite the task to set the event up, saying "first of all we set the date and then we start booking things. I personally book all the stalls and look after the foot - placing the food vendors and the ice cream vans . The acts we try and book before Christmas, or around about Christmas, because they need to know where they are going next year! So that's the first thing that happens… then all the forms go out, booking forms we send out to everyone who came last year and then anyone who wants to come in the future can get them on the internet. So it's all about getting the booking forms out and processing them". It is expected that planning for next year will begin later this month.

Jayne also happily confirmed that they were actively renovating the site, saying "We own the site now, it's a 1939 searchlight site, which we took over the rent on 2011 on a ten-year lease. We're renovating all the buildings now, a couple of them we've renovated now so they can be hired out for wedding reception, parties, all sorts."

As for the site itself, the fundraising never ends, with the organizing committee already targeting the Drill Hall roof as the next renovation project. The drill hall is already available for hire, and recently hosted a number of events including the return of the Ramsey Gaiety. Visitors to the Emergency Supplies fruit and veg stall during the weekend contributed over £600.00 towards the project.

Of course, one cannot leave the 1940's weekend without discussing the re-enactors, who fill the site with images and sounds of the 1940's. This year, the camp was able to provide a bomb-shelter experience, herding visitors into a small shed to the sounds of air raid sirens, while smoke, lights and smells were pumped in to take you right back to the blitz. Elsewhere shouts of "test firing" could be heard as genuine weaponry shot blank rounds into the air, while the camaraderie of the many groups present was quite clear. This element of living history is what sets the weekend apart from others, and adds even more to the experience than the ever-present members of the Dad's Army museum, who bring along the original Jones Van from the series each and every year.

How to sum this weekend up? Well, you can talk about how well prepared the committee is, how each year they deal with problem after accident after issue without fuss. You can talk about authenticity, about the passion with which the re-enactors take to the field, and about the presence of so many professional retailers adding their wares to the stalls. But once again, the success of this weekend comes down to the people of Ramsey, those that jump into the spirit, dress up with their family and enjoy everything that is on offer. We have taken the 1940's weekend into our hearts, and boy doesn't it show!

RAMSEY 1940'S WEEKEND

ALLIES WIN THE BATTLE OF RAMSEY CAMP…
AT LEAST ON THE SATURDAY!

One of the highlights of this year's show was the staged re-enactment of a WWII battle by the many re-enactors present at the camp. This year, British Paratroopers and American infantrymen took on a host of German soldiers in a series of trenches dug beforehand by volunteers and decorated by local Army Cadets.

Allow me to set the scene. It was mid-August 1944, and the weather fortunately provided the perfect blend of clouds, sunshine, wind and light rain to match that time! The Allied armies had encircled the Germans in the Falaise Pocket, trapping 50,000 troops inside. On August 20th, the Allies launched a surprise attack in a number of Jeeps, backed up by an M36 Hellcat Tank Destroyer, on an entrenched German unit, catching the troops completely by surprise.

Of course, not as true to the time were the health and safety briefings, which gathered both forces long before the battle! While not historically relevant, they did provide tips on how to use and avoid the myriad of pyrotechnics which blasted throughout the end display. Particularly impressive were the rounds used by the M36, with clouds of smoke drifting from the turret as it attacked a German anti-tank position. All this made the battle a superb affair, which I shall attempt to dictate below with as much flair as I can muster:

As the allied units marshalled their Jeeps just behind the tree-line, the German forces mingled in their trenches, relaxed and chatting casually with their guns idle by their sides. A lone British unit trundles out of the trees and is quickly spotted by a group of Field Police, who send a motorbike to intercept. The Germans have mistaken this first move for merely a small patrol and continue to relax. All of a sudden – BANG! (the crowd jumped as high as the German!) The tank comes rumbling over the field, followed by an American half-track containing infantrymen. The British Paratroopers, now pinned down behind their Jeep, come out of the tree-line in force and fire back at the alerted trenches. The battle runs on, as the M36 targets the enemy artillery with its cannon and mounter machine gun, making easy work of the Anti-tank position, allowing the Brits to advance on the ailing, retreating Germans. The American forces move up, suffering some casualties as medic's rush to the fallen, but it's already over for the Germans as they set about hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches. Soon, the German Commander is captured, and as he tells his men to lay down their weapons the British sweep up the last of the enemy. The position is captured, at least for today.

Back in the present, what really completed the battle were the re-enactors, who threw themselves into their performance. Of note was one German surrender, which was enacted in great detail only meters from the crowd, while one aggressive American infantryman threw himself over the trenches to attack another with the butt of his pistol! The casual humour of the troops was infectious, with some heckling the announcer before the battle, and the Germans casually saluting 'heil five' to the officers. A thoroughly enjoyable display, and an excellent way to cap the Saturday. I'm told the Germans did a little better the day after though…

Poignant Moments for D-Day veteran

Tourists and residents were not the only people to seek out the 1940's weekend. With its sombre Sunday service and memorial, many veterans turned out to remember the times, and partake in festivities.

One in particular was Anthony Staples, a 92-year-old veteran of the Western Front campaigns following D-Day. As a Corporal in the 412 Repair and Salvage Unit in the RAF 2nd Tactical Air Force, he followed the troops and planes in the Normandy Invasion on Juno Beach, repairing and salvaging Spitfires which had gone down in the area. Tony would continue this work right across Europe, following troops all the way through to Poland.

At the event on Sunday, Tony was saluted as he made his way across the field, proudly displaying his Legion d'Honnour medal, which was presented to him in 2016 by Emmanuel Cocher, the Consul General of France, who said this of the honorees: "The actions and sacrifice of these men, and that of so many who fell on the battlefield, was instrumental in bringing back freedom and peace in France and across Europe".

Tony's daughter and Ramsey resident Di Pitts later spoke of her feelings seeing her father saluted. "This brought a lump to my throat. It was so nice to see my dad and his service medals recognised".

RAMSEY'S FESTIVAL OF CRAFT

By Emily Bradley-Dorman for the Promoting Ramsey Project

The 25th of September, Ramsey Rural Museum's Plough Sunday, sees crafters come to Ramsey to sell their wares, everything ranging from paintings and textiles to jewellery. However, this year we have stepped it up a notch and on Saturday 24th of September craft is taking over the Great Whyte!

The Great Whyte will play host to Ramsey's very own Festival of Crafts! Yes, you heard me; we are setting up a one-stop-craft-shop in the very heart of Ramsey. In the early hours of Saturday the 24th thirty crafters will be busy setting up their stalls so you can come, browse and buy some of the beautifully crafted pieces they have to offer.

The art of crafting has been making a resurgence as can be demonstrated by the number of local crafters that are taking part in this event alongside well respected and regular crafters who sell around the county. A great example of this revival are the Ramsey Crafters. A number of local people interested in various crafts met at a craft session organised by GAP Learning. The course was excellent and one of the main topics of discussion was the fact that there were many people who love making things but seldom sell anything they make.

At the end of the short course a number of the crafters decided to get together on a regular basis to learn new crafts but also create the opportunity to sell some of their produce. Ramsey Crafters meet once a fortnight at the Scout Hall in Little Whtye from 1.00pm – 3.00pm. They learn new crafts and also invite outside demonstrators. Not everyone in the group sells what they make as some people just come along for the chat. You can see what they have been up to recently at the Craft Market.

It's shaping up to be an exciting and crafty Saturday morning in Ramsey with a variety of different things to tickle your fancy. A wide variety of makers are coming to town from 9am-1pm, including stalls selling jewellery, textiles, ceramics, garden ornaments, paintings, felt crafts, photography, craft goods for pets and so much more!

So come take a walk through Ramsey's Festival of Crafts, you never know what you might find!

Visiting the Ramsey Stroke Club

If you have suffered from a stroke, or care for someone who is in recovery, then you will find much needed support, information and companionship at the Ramsey Stroke Club. How do we know? This month, we went along to their meeting and discovered a lively bunch with plenty to talk about!

The Ramsey Stroke Club, which was founded nine years ago, meets between 2pm and 4pm on the third Wednesday of every month at the Rainbow Community Centre, which is attached to the surgery. When we arrived the group numbered around 20 members, all squeezed around the projector used by guest speakers.

This month's speakers (the club usually tries to accommodate at least one a month) included local historian Clive Beeke, there to discuss his work deciphering the historical riddle that is Ramsey Abbey, and Neil Chapman, Assistant regional manager at the Stroke Association.

Neil's talk was particularly informative, outlining the work of the Association and sharing some staggering statistics on strokes in the UK. According to Neil, a stroke occurs every three and a half minutes in the UK alone, with 1.2 million stroke survivors currently battling its affects. This has led to the Association lobbying the government to legislate a new stroke strategy, and is already guaranteed a response from parliament courtesy of the 10,000 signatures on their petition.

Despite the debilitating effects of their condition, many of the stroke survivors at the group were in great spirits. General consensus was that all one needs is help, information and friends, all of which the group provides.

Perrys celebrate another successful year

Local business, Perrys Private Hire are celebrating their 6th year in business with further expansion plans already in place, including the acquisition of a new Ford Tourneo Custom 8 Seater minibus which hasn't stopped working since they took delivery three weeks ago.

They have also taken on three new drivers – Gerry, Phil and Nigel – who are very experienced, CRB checked and with clean driving licences.

Premier Airport Service

Perrys have now introduced their Premier 'meet and greet' airport service from all major airports, which includes car WI-FI, newspapers and water in an air conditioned, luxury vehicle. This service complements their fleet of 8 and 16 seater mini-buses.

Mum and daughter team, Marie and Lauren run a 24/7, seven days a week service from their Ramsey premises as well as organising regular nights out, holidays, theatre outings and weekend breaks for larger groups. Their Thursford Christmas Spectacular trips are always very popular with bookings now being taken for Friday, 25th November, at just £48.

Beautiful baby

Another cause for celebration and is the birth of Lauren's beautiful baby daughter Ella Naomi, who was born on 11th June. Ella accompanies mum to work most days and is remarkably well behaved for such a young baby.

For more information about Perrys Private Hire and the services they provide call: **01487 814 989** or you can email Marie or Lauren at – **bookings@perrysprivatehire.co.uk**

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A family business working hard to keep you warm this winter

Now into their ninth year supplying quality, seasoned, hardwood logs throughout Huntingdonshire, All Seasons Logs have built an enviable reputation amongst their domestic and commercial clientele who rely on them to deliver cut and split firewood during the cold season.

Husband and wife team Steve and Belinda Huckle (pictured) with their son Jack and Daughter Keri know just how important it is to provide a reliable delivery and excellent customer service to their customers throughout the Ouse Valley region and they also ensure they supply the best wood possible, hence the reason their logs are well seasoned.

"All our logs are 9 inches long, cut and split & ready to use" says Belinda. "However, this season we have a limited supply of 14" logs for those of you who have larger wood burners, so orders are being taken whilst stocks last," she went on to say.

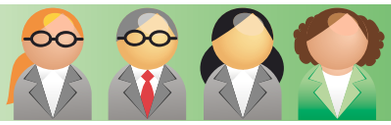
All Seasons Logs are ideal for chimneys, fire pits and firewood pizza ovens.

"So when you are in need of firewood, think of us, as we promise to help keep your home warm this winter," Belinda added.

Seasoned wood

They deliver within a 20 mile radius of Warboys with FREE delivery within12 miles and they only supply seasoned wood with a moisture level below 20%, as it's better for burning and is suitable for domestic and commercial use.

For further information and prices, check out their web site at **www.allseasonslogs.co.uk** or telephone **01487 822 935/07801 144 858**



BUSINESS+FINANCE

Recruitment

One of the things we do at face2faceHR, as most businesses do, is monitor where our clients come from. Obviously this is useful for marketing purposes, but the other aspect we can see when we do this is under what circumstances clients arrive. What has prompted them to get in touch with us?

New clients (or indeed ad hoc infrequent ones) broadly fall into two camps. Those for whom things are going well, but who are conscious that their business is either growing, or is planning to grow, and who want to get good HR documents, advice and support in place in advance, and those for whom some crisis or other has erupted and they need urgent support.

Most of our clients are fairly small businesses, where cash is usually not plentiful, so it's probably not surprising to hear that more of them by far fall into the second category. Sometimes sorting out their HR has been something they'd been meaning to get around to, but they are busy and watching the pennies so the thing that actually prompts the phone call is something of the last straw variety. Perhaps a grievance has been received, or they've reached the end of their tether with someone.

We're happy to help in those circumstances, and usually those clients settle into a more regular pattern of support once the initial crisis has been dealt with. But we think it's far better for any business, small or otherwise, to take a bit more of a proactive approach to HR, and not wait for that crisis. There are four main reasons for this and they all impact on your bottom line.

Who has the time?

Being proactive about HR support can save your business huge amounts of management time. Those clients who come to us in a crisis or at the end of their tether are frequently on their knees and incredibly frustrated at just how much time they or their managers are having to spend on employee problems. A disciplinary, a performance management problem or an absence problem can all be massively time consuming, and business owners and managers' time is without exception better spent elsewhere if possible.

But there's a secret. All these employee problems take up far less time if you catch them earlier. The longer a problem drags on, the more time consuming it becomes. Getting proactive with HR advice and support will mean problems or potential problems are either avoided altogether or at least identified much sooner, and you will get the advice and tools you need to address them effectively early on. This frees you and your managers up to do what you should be doing, making money for your business.

It's all about the money

Business owners will be well aware that their managers' time is money. Time spent by managers dealing with dragging-on employee problems is time not spent on those aspects of the business that bring in the cash. In addition to that, employee problems can result in legal fees, expensive payouts to staff, higher HR consultancy fees, and even tribunal compensation. On the slightly less dramatic side, even something like problem sickness absence not addressed soon enough can increase sick pay bills, incur expensive temporary or agency staff bills, and cost in lost productivity.

Happiness is…

Your staff morale is crucial to business success, and proactive HR can improve this dramatically. If you own or work in a small business where there has been an employee problem, you will know the significant impact this can have on a small workforce. It can be like a cloud hanging over the team for months. If staff feel employee problems are not dealt with effectively or soon enough they can feel resentful. Using proactive HR to prevent problems in the first place or address them sooner will have a positive impact on your whole workforce. Reduced absence rates, reduced staff turnover and feeling treated fairly is good news for everyone.

As well as preventing problems, proactive HR can help you manage staff in such a way that they feel valued, developed, motivated and engaged in the business, improving performance and making for a better place for everyone to work.

Who doesn't want a high performing business?

Proactive HR can help you make the most of your staff and have a dramatic impact on performance. Performance management isn't just about dealing with poor performers, it's about making sure performance of all staff is monitored and improved, even if they are performing well already.

It's about identifying development needs (and solutions) early on, supporting high performers and improving lesser performers, making sure the business is making the most of the skills it has available and ensuring that your whole workforce continually improves and develops. Productivity goes up, staff turnover goes down and sales increase.

It won't have escaped the savvy business owner's notice that actually all of these reasons boil down to the same thing; money. Proactive HR improves your bottom line by saving your business money and increasing your business's revenue through improved performance. What's not to like?!

Face2faceHR offers, practical and realistic advice and tailored solutions for businesses.
Contact me on 01487 711959
dawn.cross@face2faceHR.com

Making Your Business YOU-nique...

The Key To Your Marketing Goldmine

The difference between your business and every other business is YOU. While many businesses perform the same function, the more successful ones distinguish themselves by delivering better service, producing a higher quality product or improving their clients' quality of life. Equally important, successful businesses clearly and quickly communicate their Business Value Proposition - why their business is the best choice. And they never stop promoting the benefits their business offers.

When assessing your business, always consider this question: what can you tell your customers about your business or product that will differentiate you from the rest, and make your business the obvious choice for them?

Creating a Business Value Proposition requires ingenuity and often relies on a combination of emotional benefits as well as product features. Think of car companies that create two vehicles with the same engine, and many of the same mechanical features, but are sold at distinct price points. While the two vehicles share the same basic features, they are marketed distinctly. The Prestige 2000 ad campaign will likely feature mountainous roads, pictures of the luxurious wood and leather interior and there will be inferences to the high life. This ad appeals to a consumer's desire for luxury and a sense of achievement in life. The Reliable 900 campaign appeals to a consumer's desire to get the most for his/her money, a need for safety and an acknowledgement that this choice was the right choice. Its ad campaign will likely feature a family with kids, details of the safety devices and any consumer awards.

Some tips to get started creating your Business Value Proposition:

- How are you better than your competitors?
- Where can you stand to improve?
- Among the factors that make you stand apart from the competition, which are the most important to your customers/clients?
- What part of your business cannot be easily imitated or replicated by your competition?
- Which differences can be communicated to your customers/clients and have a meaningful impact on their purchasing decisions?
- Can you tell your customers/clients in a concise, clear message why your business is unique and a better choice?
- What ways will you communicate your Business Value Proposition to potential and current customers/clients (advertising, a referral campaign, media, packaging, sales force)?

Make sure you involve your customers and team members in this process. Don't forget to ask your best customers why they choose your business and how you can continue to make the differences that keep them coming back. This will help you attract potential best customers.

It's likely that you won't find huge differences between you and your competitors. Your differences will be small ones that lead to a distinguished customer experience (a greeter at the front door, a 2-ring phone answering policy, a sense of fun and humour in every customer interaction).

If you would like to discuss your Business Value Proposition or need assistance in implementing any of the ideas in this article, please contact **Pavilion Accountancy on 01487 898440**

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Pavilion Accountancy – Helping Small Businesses Achieve Big Results

BUSINESS+FINANCE

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ADULT LEARNING & SKILLS RAMSEY

Want to learn a new skill or make new friends?
Why not join an evening class at Abbey College?

Courses starting in September include:

Creative Sewing, Yoga, Jewellery Making, Salsa, Art, Food Hygiene, Mindfulness, Furniture Restoration, DIY, ESOL, Family Cooking, Sign Language.

Courses with a qualification:

Functional Skills Maths Level 1 & 2
Functional Skills English Level 1 & 2
Employability Skills Level 1

Contact the College for further information:

01487 811338 or email:
acl@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk
Full details are on our website www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/abbey-adult-education
Opening times: Mon to Thurs 10am-2pm
(office closed 25/7/16 to 4/9/16)

ABBEY COLLEGE · Skills Funding Agency · Cambridgeshire County Council

green skills

Receiving Benefits?
Aged between 18-65?
Interested in landscaping & construction?
(Participation in this training will NOT affect your benefit payments)

Come and Learn New Skills

and gain a CSCS Card (Construction Skills Certification Scheme)

With funding from Tesco Bags for Help Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust has commissioned Groundwork to run a 5 week training course based at Gauntlet Auto Project, Ramsey, to create an wildlife friendly spectator area.

What is 'Green Skills'?

- A 5 week training course
- 2 days a week (10am - 3pm)
- Based at Gauntlet, Ramsey
- Supervised by landscape professionals

What tasks does the training include?

- Laying decking
- Constructing raised beds and a picket fence
- Planting wildlife friendly shrubs and plants

...and more.

What shall I gain?

- Practical Experience through working on real projects
- CSCS Card (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) - revision help and study support
- Support for future job prospects
- One to one employment support, including interview skills and practice

- **RECRUITMENT DAY - THURSDAY 3rd NOV 2016**
- **COURSE STARTS THURSDAY 10th NOV**
- **RUNNING EVERY THURSDAY & FRIDAY FOR 5 WEEKS**

For further details and to register an interest contact the Neighbourhood Office on 01487 814897 or pop into Job Search Ramsey Library 10am - 12pm Mon & Weds.

Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust
RAMSEY BETTER TOGETHER

Annual General Meeting

Monday 12th September 2016
5:30pm Refreshments
6pm Meeting
Ramsey Library

'RAMSEY - BETTER TOGETHER'

Come and see what we've been doing in our community over the last year & hear about our plans for the future. You can also find out more about the projects we run or support incuding ...

- Ramsey Neighbourhood News
- Ramsey Phoenix Project
- Job Search Ramsey
- Support given to community events and groups
- Ramsey Million projects including Toddler Time, BOSH, CRUNCH, Skatepark, Grants, Indoor Space and Programme Management.

EVERYONE WELCOME

PLAYING NATIONAL PARTY GAMES

Ramsey Town Councillor Lisa Duffy spent this month travelling the country and fighting to become the next leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party. She's now in a two-horse race, and could end up leading the pack, writes Adam Roberts...

Touted by many national papers as the 'unknown' candidate, Lisa Duffy's profile has grown in size and stature over the last few months. What began as a maverick campaign has enjoyed fewer falters and far more victories than her opponents, but still might not be enough to win her the top spot. So, what do people see in 'Grassroots candidate'?

Lisa may not be a UKIP insider now, but her influence in the party should not be underestimated, and she enjoys high profile support from some of Nigel Farage's biggest detractors. She has been vocal on key issues, and if 21st century politics has taught us anything it is that a clear, popular stance on certain issues is all a candidate truly needs. After all, we live in the age of the upstart campaign, to which the devotees of Corbyn, Sanders and Trump can all attest. Lisa could fly-high on anti-establishment sentiment. She and her team have also masterfully negotiated the elephant in the room, Nigel Farage, of whom she speaks highly but always keeps at arm's length. Combine her careful rhetoric with the obvious inclusion of anti-Farage figures such as Suzanne Evans and Patrick O'Flynn, and she comes out as the anti-Farage candidate without ever having to truly turn against him. This should all be worrying the lady who may be her only competitor.

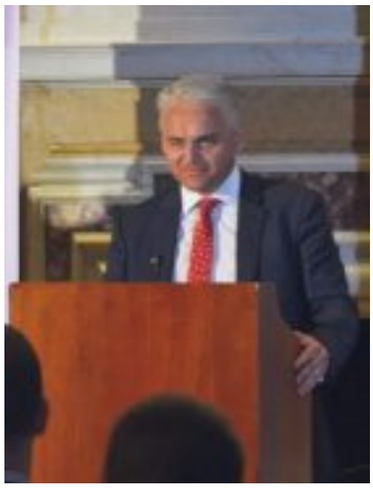
Only one of the original bookies favourites remains on the ballot, the remarkably absent Diane James, who rumour has it is enjoying her home in France before returning to campaign. James' close association with Farage and high profile party position still leave her as the clear favourite, which is perhaps why she has kept such a low profile. Allowing the rest of the field to swing at each other in the hustings, Diane James remains aloof and superior, only truly launching her campaign at the end of this month. There, she hinted at the other candidate's potential scandals, saying she has 'nothing to hide', and will enjoy plenty of support from the hard-right former Tories that have helped make UKIP a national force.

On the other hand, Lisa Duffy will be hoping it's not just the hard right that are growing tired of the mainstream. UKIP have found surprising support amongst the disenchanted Labour voters, who see their hardline immigration stance and protectionist attitudes as more palatable than the left's more open appeal. If anyone can coax a few more votes from this wing of the party, it is someone who can find them at the local level, which is precisely where Lisa Duffy is making her stand. That being said, it is her handling of national issues which showcases her political acumen.

Her decision to advocate a hard-line stance regarding Muslim Integration may be the master-stroke belying Lisa's campaign experience. Targeting an issue that many UKIP members take very seriously, Cllr Duffy has in a single bound been able to tout her political theory, proving she can make that ideological step up to leader, while entrenching her grassroots support and challenging the other candidates to debate a sensitive topic. However, today's fast moving media quickly cottoned on to the headline-making statements, and any further moves will require walking a tricky tight-rope between coaxing moderate support (where the money is) and the more hardline UKIP quotient (where the guaranteed votes lie). Lisa has been more circumspect on this issue during the hustings, so perhaps the policy has done its job – Lisa has made her headlines and stepped out onto the big stage, and not one opponent dares follow her out even onto the tricky ideological ledge.

According to her campaign, Lisa Duffy is a down to earth, plain spoken mother of six who has overcome plenty of obstacles to get into this position. However, the experienced grassroots campaigner has shown her hand with an ability to control press conferences, handling the media well. This has allowed her to benefit from the underestimation of some and the inactivity of others, but it also provides some insight into the battle-ready politician that the campaign would wish to hide. Lisa the Party Director, the host of donors at parties and the by-election campaigner with tricks up her sleeve. Her opponents would do well to take heed of her previous survival in the upper echelons of the party, where she was just as established as any MEP or deputy leader.

At this point in the campaign, Cllr Duffy remains one of the only candidates standing to actually make headlines; she has worked her way across England delivering the same message while others have stuttered, faltered or dropped out. Diane James will need to bring more to the table if she expects to compete, although she will benefit heavily from her position in the UKIP hierarchy and the ease at which members recognize her contributions. In short, Lisa Duffy's campaign is a winner, but UKIP has never taken to dark horses, and she still faces a tough climb to the top job.



Patrick O'Flynn, for whom Lisa works as Chief-of-Staff, is being touted as her running mate

Cllr Duffy announced her campaign from the King George V meeting room, which is less than a mile away from the Houses of Parliament, where she promised to 'walk the peoples army' to.

TABOO TOPICS AT HCR104FM

An excerpt from Cllr Duffy's recent interview with Adam on the Huntingdon Community Radio Sunday morning politics show County Matters, where she outlined her views on multiculturalism and community integration.

Adam: You talked a lot about taboo subjects, and you're clearly not afraid to discuss things like this. You did say, well you were quoted as saying, you would ban Muslim schools. Now, if we are talking integration, would that be a step in the right direction?

Lisa Duffy: Muslim faith Schools?

Adam : Yes.

Lisa Duffy: So when we're talking about integration, if we felt – and this is a team of us that are putting this together – if we felt that the same this was happening in a catholic school or a C of E school we would be calling for them to have a closure on their schools, at the time until we can be sure that it is fair what is being educated within those schools, it's not secular, it is actually delivering a whole piece of religious education, not saying this is good, that is bad and moving on. So, when you look at places that radicalization start, we have to take a deep look into Muslim schools, and I have said I would be happy to go along and meet them – there is an open letter out there that I have been invited to go along and myself and my team will take that up – but I think we mustn't be afraid to talk about this. But the key thing for me is the integration. It's so called honour killings – you and I would call that murder. I don't think there is such a thing as an honour killing, that's my Lisa Duffy personal opinion. FGM, things like that, wearing of the veil. Now, we'll be very clear about that, and UKIP have always been very clear, it's about face coverings in high security areas. It's not in the Koran to say you have to your face covered up: but actually you and I are sitting here together, Adam, we can look at each other. I know… I can tell, I hope, how you feel. Your eyes, your body language. But actually, I can't do that if someone's face is fully covered, and when we are in a state as we are at the moment with the fear factor that's out there - and it's not fair to all those great Muslims that we've got within our communities that that level of fear is out there – so let's be fair, lets integrate and work together as a community.

Ramsey's Treasures

DISCOVER THEM ALL - FOR FREE!

By Emily Bradley-Dorman, for the Promoting Ramsey Project

It is that time of year again when the heritage sites around Ramsey are getting ready to open their doors to the public. Jump on the FREE Vintage Bus to travel from one site to the next and take the wealth of history and heritage that Ramsey has to offer in this one day event.

FREE ENTRY to ten of Ramsey's heritage sites including the 1940's Camp where you can come and listen music being played on a 'Wurlitzer' type organ, see the dogs from Ramsey Dog Agility in action and enjoy the camp.

Ramsey Rural Museum has a display showing the history of Ramsey as well as a wealth of memorabilia of rural life, with the newly restored **Fen Cottage**. While here why not stop by the **Oxford Archaeology East stall** with family activities available?

The free vintage bus can take you to the **Fenland Light Railway** which, if you didn't know, is a 7 ¼ inch gauge Narrow Gauge Railway Operating Steam, Electric and Petrol locomotives. Come and have a ride!

The National Trust's Abbey Gatehouse & House will have tours available around the remains of the 15th Century building throughout the day. The Grade 2 listed War Memorial is another building around the Abbey so check it out while you are there as well as **St Thomas a Becket Church and Bell Tower**.

Ramsey Walled Kitchen Garden was originally the kitchen garden for the Abbey with its walls built around 1840 and has now been restored by volunteers into a working garden producing vegetables, fruit and flowers. If you wish to go on a tour of the garden, guides will be around on the hour to show you around.

The Mortuary Chapels dates back to 1858 and were built in the high Victorian Gothic style with a bell tower spanning a pathway. Cemetery records will be on display and family tree researchers will be on site so why not have a chat with them while you are there?

The Great Fen will have a display in the library where you can also get a cup of tea and a piece of cake. There is also food available in town, at **Ramsey Rural Museum**, the fenland Light Railway and on the Abbey site.

While you are out and about why not pick up one of our **passports**? Get it stamped by at least seven of the heritage sites and you will be entered into a prize draw. So get on board the **FREE bus** or if it is a sunny day why not get your walking shoes on and see some of Ramsey's rich heritage?

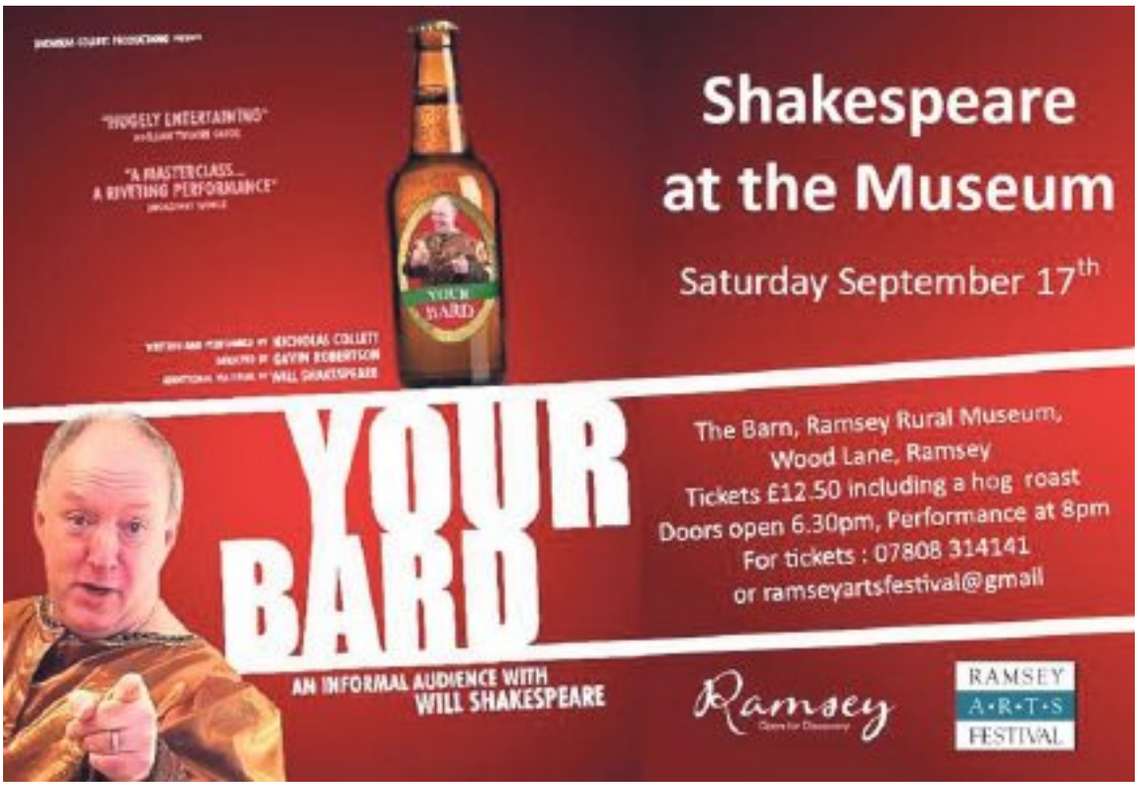
There are plenty of activities around the sites to make your day a family affair. While you are taking in the sights of Ramsey's rich heritage make sure you have your little ones on the hunt for **"Rammy" and his friends**. Hidden in each location is a one or more of Rammy's little friends, let the kids run around finding them and they could be in with a chance to **win a prize**.

There will be **FREE parking** with access to many venues at Wood Lane and in town, a **FREE vintage bus** from the library that will be stopping at the heritage sites.

Treasure your treasures and enjoy a day taking in what makes our town great.

See you there!

For more information visit **www.discoverramsey.co.uk** or contact **ann.cuthbert@cambsacre.org.uk**



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TWITTER: @RWReditorial

WORDPRESS: https://rwrstories.wordpress.com/

Decisions are made by those who show up

By Ian Curtis, Ramsey Town Councillor

I am very concerned about the attendance of councillors at our two main meetings every month. In the last three months, we have only just been quorate.

When you put your name forward you should know the commitment required of you to attend meetings and make decisions on behalf of the constituents you represent, having listened to any representations they may need to be conveyed.

To have just seven councillors turn up to the last four meetings is appalling. I know of only two who are ill or perhaps have work commitments, but I do believe that those who can't be bothered do the town a disservice – why put your name forward if you do not honour the office. I'm not going to name names, they know who they are, but please make the effort and attend.

Even more annoying are those who don't have the common courtesy to ring in to the Clerk and offer their apologies. I know we are not the only council with this problem, but if you can't give the commitment then stand down and give someone who has the time and energy to serve the community the opportunity to be a councillor.

One final irritation is when a councillor abstains from a vote on an important issue. Perhaps if they read their papers before a meeting and did some research they would have a better understanding and accordingly vote for or against. The only reason not to vote is if you have a personal interest in the issue being discussed. You can still have your say, but should abstain when the vote is taken.

If anyone is interested in the attendance records, these are held in the Council Offices on Church Green.

When it comes to education, more can mean less

By Mharie West

With the A-Level and GCSE results now out of the way, now's a great time for me to rain on everyone's parade about jobs after university.

If you or a friend or family member has been going through the debacle of choosing their future university, you may know the drill by now: some vocational subjects will virtually guarantee you a job afterwards (such as medicine and dentistry), and it's seen as giving you a better chance of future job security to get a degree in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) field than in a humanities field. Universities bend over backwards to reassure you that no matter what degree you do your skills are transferable, and provide you with career advice of varying usefulness (CV help, interview practise, etc.).

So, let's assume that for any number of reasons, you picked a humanities subject to study for three or four years. You did everything you were advised to do: you joined the committee of at least one society, you got a part-time job, you volunteered. In your final year, you went to endless graduate fairs. You graduate with a tidy 2:1. Congrats!

But.

There are a lot of other students out there. To give you an idea, this year as of 24th August 480,120 students have gained places at university. That number will probably rise between now and the end of the window on the 2nd. In 2015, 70% of students got a 2:1 or a First Class. So there could be as many as 33,6000 students all applying for the same jobs.

Suddenly the important factor isn't your degree result, although you're proud of it. Everyone's got that. It's in the rest of your CV. That society, that job, that volunteering. Not just do you have them, but can you take your experiences with them and twist them into the framework the job application needs? What's project management experience? Do you have it?

Now, that's all typical job application stuff and non-graduates get hit with the "how in the world do I prove my communication or teamworking skills??" problem too. But the point of this was to remind everyone that a university degree is so much more common for people under 30 than for the older people who are telling us we will walk into jobs. That a good degree and three years of hard work are all you'll need. A degree doesn't make you stand out. It doesn't make you special, it doesn't guarantee you that ideal job. I'm not saying don't go. I'll never say that; I loved university too much to ever deny someone that experience. But I'm just saying: think. Don't blindly follow your teachers and parents. A degree meant more when they were your age.

Festival-goers Holly Ashton-Jones (left) and Molly Halksworth (right) at last year's event.

SECRET GARDEN PARTY LEADING THE WAY IN DRUG TESTING?

By Bryony Smith

The local festival is the first event in the country to offer a drug testing service for people to test the content before they use them.

'The Loop' is an organisation which performs forensic testing of drugs at festivals and nightclubs and offers associated welfare support, backed by local police. Throughout the course of the first day and half, over 80 substances were tested – including very high-strength ecstasy pills and misrepresented drugs, such as anti-malaria tablets sold as ketamine.

According to sources, around 200 people used this service; a quarter of this disposing of their drugs after discovering its danger or misrepresentation.

Professor Fiona Measham, co-founder and director of The Loop, stated that "This can help people make informed choices, raising awareness of particularly dangerous substances in circulation and reducing the chance of drug-related problems occurring." However, how much of an affect does this actually have?

Can they really claim to be having a positive impact on festival-goers decisions when only 200 out of 30,000 use the service, while only 50 people actually disposed of 'dangerous' drugs? This still leave 29,950 people who potentially are still taking these drugs, despite the risks.

After speaking to some sources – who prefer to remain anonymous – regarding their visit to SGP, they said that the drug testing service was "pointless". "No one is going to come forward, declaring they have drugs, when there is police around…I'm not going to risk getting arrested". "Most people bring their own drugs, or knows someone reliable who can provide them with drugs, so why would they go to test?"

Once a sample is tested, the rest of the drug is not taken away but given back to the owner. This suggests, therefore, that even if a drug was tested as an illegal substance or 'highly dangerous', it does not prevent the person in possession from still taking it. Does this mean the police are encouraging illegal substances and should anything bad happen, does this make them responsible?

Steve Rolles, senior policy analyst for Transform Drug Policy Foundation, said: "Until the laws are reformed, testing and encouraging safer drug use is the least we can do."

He claims that the police are becoming "increasingly pragmatic" regarding drug use at festivals. This means that there is perhaps the start of a moral issue.

A bespoke Cambridgeshire Police web page for Secret Garden Party states there is a "zero tolerance approach to illegal drugs", adding: "But if you are going to use them, be cautious."

This quote summarises the entire enterprise. The police are upholders of the law, however when it comes to drugs what can really be done in order to prevent their use? Police have a moral obligation to protect citizens but there is only so much that can be put in place with 30,000 visitors.

Like so many other topics it is difficult to deem it right or wrong; whether in the long term these services will decrease the amount of injuries relating to drug-taking is something we will just have to wait and see.

Handmade with love

Throughout the country many of the craft groups in the U3A donate items they make to charities. The Ramsey and District U3A continue this tradition. The Knit and Natter group support hospitals by making blankets and cardigans for premature baby units as well as blankets and teddies for bereaved parents of neonatal deaths. Even animal rescue centres benefit from their knitting and crocheting skills with dog blankets.

Mixed Craft group

The Mixed Craft group make a variety of things to sell for charity at various events including bags, Christmas decorations and handmade cards. So when the Patchwork and Quilting group were approached by a church to help refugees the answer was "We'd love to."

I can't imagine what life as a refugee must be like. To be homeless with few possessions and uncertainty as to where you might sleep or when you might eat is something few of us have had to face? When you add that to being alone with no parents or family to support and care for you the future must seem very bleak.

Gift of a quilt

Over the past few months many unaccompanied young refugees have come to Britain. They arrive without family and with nothing but what they stand up in. Many of these children have been settled in the Midlands. The gift of a quilt that is their own and can be taken wherever they go can be an anchor and a great comfort in what must be, at first, a bewildering experience.

Time was at a premium but fabric was donated, quilters and sewing machines arrived to work together for a day to make single size quilts. Members of the group crammed a week's work into one day making 'scrappy quilts' from small pieces of fabric and more traditional quilts by using larger pieces to make simple patchwork blocks that could be sewn together. Needless to say the generosity of the group meant that the ladies took home quilt tops to finish and extra fabric to make more. The five quilters produced thirteen quilts in one week which were sent to the charity and distributed to those in need. Each quilt had the label 'Made with Love' sewn onto the backing.

Comforters

In days gone by everything had to be repaired again and again to save money.

Nina's quilt

Enid's quilt

Fran's quilt

When clothes wore out pieces of material from them was used to make quilts. These were called comforters as sleeping under them brought back memories of the garments they originally came from. We hope that the quilts we made bring comfort to the young refugees who so desperately need something to cling to while starting a new and better life here.

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fun with friends of the Great Fen

A message from Luna and Newton

Luna the dragonfly.

Excuse me but can I tell you a little about me. I'm a bit shy really and don't like talking about myself. I'm a dragonfly and my name is Luna. I get a little embarrassed when people tell me I am so beautiful. It's because I have such large eyes and a brownish long slender body that sometimes glistens brightly in the sunlight. I spend a lot of time sunbathing, just perching on reeds near the edges of ponds and rivers. I love the sunshine and a day out by the water's edge with a mosquito picnic is my ideal way to spend the day.

Newton the Newt.

Hey Guys. Yeah it's me, Newton the newt. To be precise I'm a Great Crested Newt which means I'm a protected species! Yeah man. They even have a sign to prove I am.. cool eh! I just love exploring. I'm an all out there type of guy, nothing scares me! I want to see it all, I want to do it all and I will survive!

If there's and adventure to be had I will be there, map in hand and backpack full ready to go. Come on an adventure with me Newton and you'll have the time of your life!

The Story: What an amazing day.

Down at the edge of a reed lined pond something exiting was about to happen.

A message from Mandy...

Last month we introduced the Fen Friend characters who are often seen around the fen taking note of what's going on and being in the action. They were introduced to help inspire children to become involved in nature and increase their awareness of the environment and the work of the Wildlife Trust on the Great Fen. Over the last 40 years children have become increasingly separated from nature. It is hoped that with the help of these characters, that the young children who , after all are the custodians of nature for the future, will take an active interest and be inspired. Knowing these days that children love digital games the Wildlife Trust (Great Fen) will be launching an app to help connect them with a nature based topic. Please check out the website on www.greatfen.org

There a thousands of dragonflies darting around the fen this summer . If you get a few moments in your busy days try and pop down and see them for yourselves. Full details of where to go are on our website or pick up a leaflet from the Countryside Centre down Chapel Road in Ramsey Heights.

Newton, a Great Crested newt, had stood silent and motionless peering down in to the water. Standing still was a huge challenge for Newton. He didn't do patient and he certainly didn't do standing still. "This better be worth it" he muttered under his breath.

Then it happened!

Slowly, so slowly from down in the muddy waterside, emerged the most magical of creatures. Gently a dragonfly broke from its skin like casing hidden in the mud and climbed up the nearest reed stalk. It paused for a moment to take in the brightness of the morning light. After such a long time hidden away the daylight was very strange indeed.

"You took your time" said Newton startling the dragonfly as he spoke "You must be Luna" he continued.

"Is that my name?" enquired the delicate creature.

"Oh yes and I was told that you are a brown Hawker dragonfly but everyone will call you Luna around here".

"Luna, I like that" she replied in a very dainty voice, that had never been used before. Luna yawned as she stretched out to uncurl and dry out her wings. Her fragile looking wings had been uncased for months whilst her body grew and grew, stronger and stronger, until it was time to leave her protective case.

"You are every beautiful" said Newton " I'm glad I waited to see you"

Luna dipped her head and blushed a little. As she bent her head downwards she caught a glimpse of her own reflection in the water. Her huge eyes sparkled and for the first time she could see her glass like wings open out to form such a stunning shape and she saw her slender body shimmer in shades of blue and yellow gold in the now strong sunlight. She could not believe what she was seeing. All that time hidden away in the muddy waters edge, how she had waited for this moment.

Bravely, she stretched out and with a flick of her long body she lifted herself off the reed and in to the air. She hovered so gracefully realising that her wings had become strong. She stared to dart around in the bright blue sky.

"Wow" said Newton "Your amazing. I wish I could do that" He swished his long newt tail and flapped about but of course he couldn't do more than to jump barely off the ground.

Luna smiled. She was able to fly both forwards and backwards, she could hover high and low and dart around so quickly. Newton couldn't keep up with where she was.

"I've got to go now" shouted Newton up in to the air, with no idea where Luna had gone off to "I'm going to have another adventure today and I've been here too long already" He gathered all his things together and checked that his back pack was ready for whatever he would need. "I'll introduce you to the rest of my friends later if you like, but we will have to be a bit careful with Swoop. I'm sure you will be fine, but Swoop is a Marsh Harrier and he does like the odd dragonfly for a lunchtime snack – so we had better watch out"

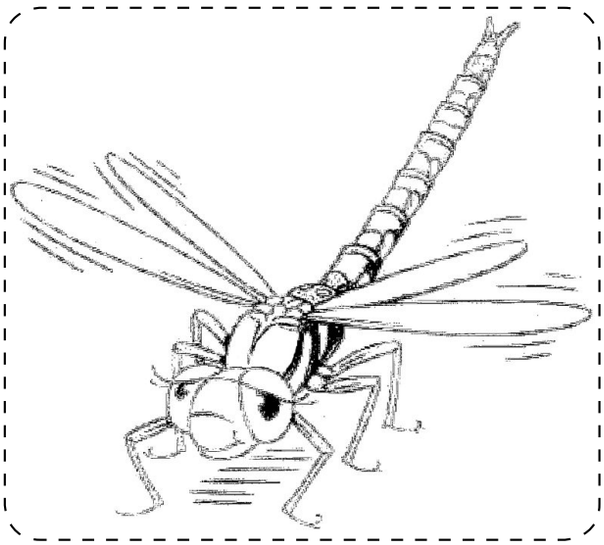
Luna had landed nearby and she looked very worried. "I hope not, it's taken me so long to get here I don't want to be bird food just yet" she said nervously.

"Don't worry Luna, I will make sure you are safe. Perhaps you should meet Verity first" Newton was worried that he may have scared his new friend "Verity is a lovely water vole who lives on the river bank. I know she would love to meet you and tell you some of her stories. It would be good if you could keep an eye out for her. With those massive eyes of yours you could find her stick for her, she is always losing her stick. See you later"

Newton was off. It had been a great start to the day but there was so much to see on this huge Fen.

Luna took to the skies again. Newton wasn't the only one who was out to explore. "There is a whole wide world for me to find" thought Luna as she danced around sparkling like a diamond in the bluest of skies. "This is just the beginning"

COLOURING COMPETITION



Colour-in your own Luna and send it back by 30th September to:
Mandy Corney The Wildlife Trust Countryside Centre, Chapel Road, Ramsey Heights, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE26 2RS
for your chance to win a Family Ticket to one of our events.

Squadron leader Swoop the Marsh Harrier

Attention! Now you chaps are you listening? I'd like to introduce myself. Swoops the name. Squadron leader Swoop. Busy chap. I've always got a job to do. Spend most of my days over the Great Fen on surveillance duties. Report back my missions to the Team. I'm literally the eyes and ears of what's happening on the ground. I'm the eye in the sky and all that. I know what's going on where, when and how. Need to know something, then I'm your man.

Newton the Newt.

Hey Guys. Yeah it's me, Newton the newt. To be precise I'm a Great Crested Newt which means I'm a protected species! Yeah man. They even have a sign to prove I am.. Cool eh! I just love exploring. I'm an all out there type of guy, nothing scares me! I want to see it all, I want to do it all and I will survive!

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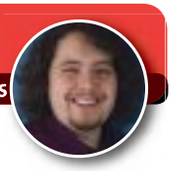
Great Fen

BOOK REVIEW

HEAD OF STATE

by Andrew Marr

by Adam Roberts



It's not often I find myself back on the review page, if only because I never have the time to sit and read a good book, but after being drawn into this twisting, turning tale I felt compelled to recommend this title. Why? Well, largely because it is based on the unique life experiences of a man who otherwise would be content to publish non-fiction.

Andrew Marr is far better known for his work as a journalist, spending time as editor of the Independent and more recently as host of the Sunday morning Marr show, which he gleefully references several times in Head of State, his first fiction novel. Given his journalistic background, readers shouldn't be surprised that the first few chapters of the plot, which revolves around a fictional EU referendum, read like profile pieces, as he carefully examines each character in turn while paining a stark and unflattering view of modern politics from several points of view. And then everything goes crazy.

It really is just that sudden. I would never spoil the twist for you, but it only takes a single line to occur, and I distinctly remember re-reading said line several times before turning to the nearest person and expressing some unrepeatable surprise! This becomes something of a running theme in a tale that rapidly descends into political farce, as Marr wields his rapier wit and skewers all manner of targets.

Any political minded person will also note the staggering similarities between the fictional EU campaigns and the reality in which we now live. Of course, it takes a monumental left turn part way though, but considering Marr is writing some years ago, the accuracy is a testament to his own political and news instinct.

In short, this is a must read for anyone who has grown tired of the same political fiction coming out every year. Sure, it starts off in a pretty similar way (why is it all authors insist on having a King on the throne?) but the plot becomes as vibrant and original as the characters. This is funny, stylish satire at its finest, and deserves a place on anyone's shelves.

BOOK REVIEW

A STEP TOWARDS FALLING

by Cammie McGovern

I honestly didn't know what to expect when this book came through the post. I have heard of Cammie McGovern's Amy & Matthew before but I have never read anything by her and I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed A Step Towards Falling.

The story is told from two points of view. The first is Emily, the majority of the book is from her perspective, and the second is Belinda whose story is just as paramount in the novel. The book starts with an event, a football (American) game to be exact, where Belinda is attacked. Emily and a character called Luke both witness the attack but do nothing to stop it from happening. This leads to Emily and Luke having to help out at a local centre for people with learning disabilities. Throughout the book you follow Emily, Luke and Belinda as they come to terms with that happened at the game and see how they learn to live with the consequences of that night.

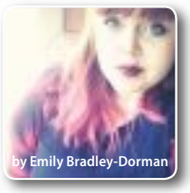
What I liked about this book most was that Emily didn't spend the whole book asking why this was happening to her? Instead she is completely aware that she messed up and it is how she deals with the guilt in an environment that is completely alien to her. Having to 'volunteer' with disabled people when Belinda, the girl she let get attacked, also has learning difficulties proves harder than she thought to begin with.

When it comes to the sections about Belinda I found it really interesting because McGovern uses an almost childlike style of writing. The innocence of the character's personality was completely endearing she asks why she had been attacked? Why had it happened to her? She doesn't understand why and at one point almost blames herself, which broke my heart a little.

Of course it wouldn't be a YA novel without a little love story! Emily and Belinda both have a couple of love interests throughout the book, admittedly a little predictable at times as far as Emily's love life goes, but that doesn't take away from the story. Actually if anything it adds to it because the author gives the reader what they want. Overall A Step Towards Falling is a novel with all the fundamental traits of a YA classic in the making.

- Love story - check ✓
- Relatable characters - check ✓
- Diversity - c heck ✓
- And the most important part of a YA novel, a strong moral lesson at its centre - check ✓

This is a story about not judging a book by its cover and knowing that everyone makes mistakes and it is what you do after that makes or breaks a person's character.



by Emily Bradley-Dorman

little miracles

Little Miracles in Ramsey started as a coffee group called Ramsey Additional Needs in November 2012. After 13 months and some additional support from Little Miracles it was decided at a General Meeting to join with Little Miracles in order to gain charitable status and allow them to apply for grants to reach more families. Now, the group has grown in terms of size and stature, and currently runs up to three sessions a week for children and families affected by disability. We went along to one to explore this vibrant local group.

Who are they? Little Miracles is a charity that supports families that have children with additional needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions. Just like everyone else these children need a place to play, laugh and create friendships – Little Miracles provides this whilst the families are able to access the advice, support and care that they deserve.

Little Miracles exists to reduce this isolation and to ensure that families get the support that they need in order to support their families

The area of additional needs in children is truly vast. An example of just some of the areas they presently support include, amongst others, Autism, Dyspraxia, Developmental Co-ordination Disorder, Global Development Delay, Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Epilepsy, Aspergers, Hypotonia, Sensory Processing Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and Hyper-mobility.

Thanks to a grant from Ramsey Million we have secured funding for the year to pay for hall hire for our parent and family sessions for 2014 and have slowly been building awareness throughout the town attending school fêtes and talking to the public. The particular session we attended was chaotic, to be sure, with children merrily running about, having fun, learning and fussing a range of adorable small animals you normally would never see. But, as Chair of Trustees Amy Brown says: "people around here, they deserve to know about us, instead of just being sat at home and thinking they can't take their child out because of how they react in certain situations."

Little miracles are always looking for new members and new sponsors. To find out more, head over to www.littlemiraclescharity.org.uk

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RAMSEY WALLED GARDEN
RECIPE OF THE MONTH

COURGETTE BAKE

SERVES 4

This bake is delicious and freezes well. It is best to freeze after stage 4 and add the potato and cheese later. I also add a pinch of chilli powder but that is optional.

INGREDIENTS

2 tbs vegetable oil
450 gm (1lb) of courgettes sliced
2 onions sliced
4 oz of red lentils(washed)
150 mil (¼) vegetable stock
2 14 oz tins of tomatoes
1 tsp mixed herbs
Salt and pepper
700 gm (1½ lb) potatoes cooked and mashed
75 gm (3oz) cheddar cheese grated

METHOD

1. Set oven to 180oC or gas mark 4
2. Heat oil in a large frying pan and fry onion until it is just beginning to soften. Cook and mash the potatoes.
3. Stir in the lentils, tomatoes and stock and bring gently to the boil. Stir in the herbs and season with salt and pepper. Add a pinch of chilli powder if you wish. Reduce heat and simmer gently for 20 minutes
4. Stir in the courgettes and cook for a further 10 minutes. (you can freeze part at this stage if you wish)
5. Place the mixture in a shallow ovenproof dish. Spread the potatoes over the lentil mixture. Sprinkle the grated cheese on top. Bake in the oven for 30-40 minutes until the potato has a crisp top.

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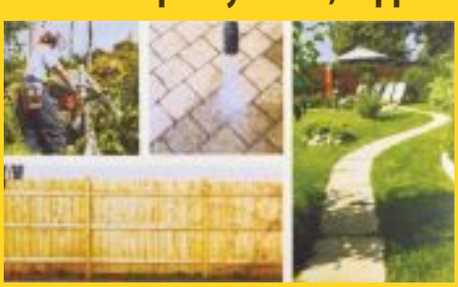

FIESTA CELEBRATES FORTY YEARS

This year, Ford Fiesta celebrates 40 years since the first car rolled off the production line in Saarlouis, Germany.

First introduced to the world in 1976, the Ford Fiesta has since driven its way into the hearts of millions of customers around the world, now acclaimed as Europe's best-selling small car. The 2016 line-up includes the Fiesta ST and the new 200 PS Fiesta ST200 hot hatchbacks, but over the years there have been dozens of variants, driven by movie stars to mechanics.

Launched in the same year as technology company Apple and supersonic passenger flights on Concorde, few could have predicted the Fiesta's phenomenal success story. Ford has produced more than 17 million Fiestas around the world since the first vehicle rolled off the production line in Saarlouis, Germany, on May 11, 1976. Forty years of production in Europe also has seen Fiestas built at Ford manufacturing facilities in Valencia, Spain and Dagenham. Today, a new Fiesta is manufactured every 96 seconds at Ford's facility in Cologne, Germany.

The following time-line offers a glimpse into the Fiesta's rich history, including a few facts you may know and some that will surprise!

1972

- Fiesta conceived to create a new Ford small car for the world, a mission close to the heart of Ford Chairman Henry Ford II
- Work begins in Europe and America to develop the new small car, ranging from its mechanical architecture and design elements to market positioning

1973

- Fuel crisis rocks the world, adding urgency to Ford's vision to create a fuel-efficient, practical small car
- Ford Board of Directors gives go-ahead to produce a new small car, codenamed Bobcat

1975

- Engine production begins at Valencia
- Fiesta name chosen personally by Henry Ford II for its alliteration with Ford, its spirit and its celebration of Ford's new connection with Spain

1976

- First production Fiesta rolls off the line in Saarlouis, Germany on May 11, 1976. More than 84,000 Fiestas are built in Saarlouis that year

1979

- Millionth Fiesta built for worldwide sales. Special sporty version enters Monte Carlo Rally – this would become the inspiration for the Fiesta XR2

1984

- First Fiesta runs on lead-free petrol

1989

- In Cologne, the new Fiesta became a work of art as the Goldener Vogel (golden bird) atop the tower of a city museum, the creation of action artist H. A. Schult. The small car with the powerful eagle wings would become a favourite of the Cologners and a popular sight for tourists

1991

- Banner year – best to date for Fiesta sales with 624,186 sold Europe-wide

1999

- World première of the Fiesta MkV and the brand new Ford Fiesta Sport at the IAA Frankfurt Motor Show

2002

- All-new Ford Fiesta launched initially in the five-door version with a new line-up of engines, including the new 1.3-litre and 1.6-litre Duratec petrol engines

2005

- 150 PS Fiesta ST launched – most powerful Fiesta to date – as the first production offering of Ford Team RS

2008

- Fiesta ST performance model debuts with a 2.0-litre Duratec petrol engine, offering 150 PS and top speed of 208 km/h (129 mph)

2009

- Named 'Car of the Year 2009' by What Car? Magazine, U.K

2010

- Fiesta is the best-selling vehicle in Europe in first quarter with 140,496 cars sold in first three months of the year, and 68,630 in March alone

2011

- Fiesta RS World Rally Car makes its competitive debut with a clean sweep of the podium at Rally Sweden

2012

- Fiesta is Europe's top-selling small car of 2012, with one purchased every two minutes on average
- New Fiesta MkVIII goes on sale in Europe with bold styling, smart technologies including Active City Stop and MyKey, and seven engines with sub-100 g/km CO2 emissions

2013

- Fiesta 1.0-litre EcoBoost is named 2013 Women's World Car of the Year
- Fiesta is named Supermini of the Year by What Car? Magazine, U.K

2014

- More than half the competitors enter round seven of the FIA World Rally Championship in a Ford Fiesta, creating a new entry ratio record in world rallying

2016

- Ford unveils the new 200 PS Fiesta ST200 at the Geneva Motor Show, delivering 6.7 second 0-100 km/h (0-62 mph) acceleration. It is the most powerful production Fiesta ever

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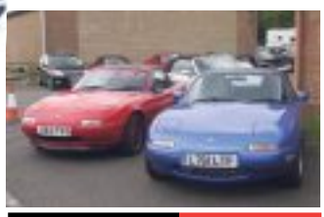

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64	Insignia 2.0 CDTi Ltd Ed, Black, 5,500 Miles Only, Price New	£14,995	£13,995
15	Astra GTC 1.7TD (Diesel) Ltd Ed, Buzz Blue, Big Wheels, 400 Miles	£15,995	£14,995
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13	Ford Fiesta 1.0 Zetec 5Dr, White, Air Con, 24,000 Miles, Lovely People	£7,495	£6,995
14	Seat Ibiza 1.4 Toca, Met Grey, Sat Nav, 16,000 Miles	£7,295	£6,995
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VAUXHALL

NENE VALLEY GLIDING CLUB TAKE HOME YOUNG PILOTS TROPHY

HOSTING THE REGIONAL CHALLENGE FOR THE FIRST TIME THE YOUNG PILOTS FROM NENE VALLEY GLIDING CLUB SOARED TO VICTORY

There's no getting around it, gliding is a sport for those with patience. When you get up in the air, you are remarkably busy trying to keep your engineless aircraft up there, but down on the ground those not engaged in the business of the airfield can enjoy plenty of time for tanning and small-talk. Add in local rivals, friendly competition and a host of young people and suddenly the ground gets a lot more interesting!

This month saw local fliers at the Nene Valley Gliding Club host their first Four-Club Young Pilot Challenge, where young pilots between 14 and 18 years of age from Cambridge, Dunstable, Bicester and Upwood competed in a series of challenges to win points for their club.

It took two days of exhaustive work from both the club and the teams involved to make it possible. Each team brought a glider and an instructor to the proceedings, leaving the airfield looking decidedly busy. Tents sprung up around the fringes as competitors camped overnight, being treated to a BBQ dinner and a cooked breakfast by the Nene Valley volunteers.

Onto the challenges, although merely setting the event up was a challenge in itself. On the first day, the club suffered a winch failure leading to a significant delay, before a sudden shift of wind required the group to switch ends of the airfield. Gliding being the cooperative sport that it is, everyone pulled together to switch the gliders and the winches, and soon they were ready to compete.

It was fast paced fun throughout the day, with experienced winch operator and club Vice-Chairman Peter Valentine manning the winches. The first day saw a climbing challenge, where the young competitors attempted to thermal as high as possible, while the Sunday included a landing competition, with pilots attempting to land their gliders as close to the mark as possible. While there was plenty happening up in the air, those on the ground worked just as hard; even the two electric buggies used to pull the gliders off the landing strip ran out of battery!

In the end, it came down to a close fight between hosts Nene Valley and visiting club Bicester, with little separating them going into the second day. After a tense competition, Nene Valley soared off with the win, collecting 275 points against Bicesters 250, with Cambridge coming third and Dunstable closing out the pack with a very respectable 235.

Peter Valentine later commented that he was "thrilled" to take the trophy, although pointed out that for many of the young pilots this would have been a great opportunity to socialize and make friends who will stay with them for the rest of their gliding careers. After all, as with any gliding event the competition was about allowing the young pilots meeting like-minded people.

SPORT

ADAMS FITNESS CHALLENGE

PART 1 - THE WARM-UP

My word, I'm unfit. Those four words have been a mantra ringing in my ears every time I took the stairs in a multi-story car park, or whenever I wandered up to town instead of driving. While I would seem to get plenty of exercise, the time spent at a desk has crept up on me, and the combination of a thoroughly misspent time as a student followed by a busy work schedule has left me sweating and panting up a simple set of stairs. Well, not for much longer.

Over the next three weeks, I'll be taking on twelve weeks of old-fashioned exercise in the only way that really works – joining the Gym. The One Leisure Gym to be precise. Of course, it's been something of an uphill struggle to get this far. When we first tried to set this up, we discovered during my first induction that my blood pressure was significantly high, and I was sent packing to the doctors. Months later, and having received the proper treatment, I am now ready to get started, but this episode does go to show the diligence of One Leisure's induction. I have no doubt that without their check I would still be wandering about oblivious.

Anyway, this time around we got past the checks and out into the gym. Now, as an overweight man who is relatively self-conscious about the fact, the thought of 'the gym' is something of a nightmare. I picture muscular athletes, looking down at my portly frame with a mixture of curiosity and disgust. Not so here. Those that did look my way smiled amicably, while the two staff members who inducted me over the three sessions were fun, friendly and unbelievably helpful. Every machine was tried and tested and every question I had was answered, even the daft ones. Even the machines are handy, with every new initiate handed a key which tracks your workout and keeps you updated as to the next machine. You can even start watching a programme on one machine and it will follow you over to the next one… Finally, I won't miss the countdown conundrum when switching to the cross-trainer! All of this left me, after three solid sessions, with a full training plan ready to go.

Then I took on my first proper session, the only one I've had before writing this. Membership card in hand I strolled confidently into the gym. Then straight back out again. I had left my key at home. Second time around I made it past the door and, an hour later, a sweat soaked exhausted hair monster left. I could barely recognize myself: had things really got this bad! I had struggled towards the end of my cardio, with the rowing machine leaving me breathless after only a few minutes pulling, while my shoulders screamed in agony at the weight machines. Cut forward an hour later, and I felt fantastic! My morale was up – I knew I could do this now – while my body seemed decidedly happier with itself! The few aches and pains a morning later were a small price to pay!

So, what happens next? Well, with a little luck and a certain amount of horror I shall be completing three gym sessions a week, alongside sampling some of the other delights that One Leisure has to offer. Next month, I'll be letting you know about my trials and tribulations, of which I am expecting plenty! There will also be the first update of my monthly goals and a few of the hints and tips I am already starting to pick up. In the meantime, wish me luck!

SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE ONE LEISURE RAMSEY

Timetable effective from Monday 5th September to Sunday 23rd October 2016

Mo	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Baby & Toddler Lessons 9.30 - 10.00	Private Use 10.00 - 11.00	Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 3.30	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30		Lane Swim 7.30 - 9.00
Tu	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.00 - 11.00		Aquafit 11.05 - 11.55	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 4.00	Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00	Public Swim 6.00 - 7.00	Lane Swim 7.00 - 8.00	Private Use 8.00 - 9.00
We	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Baby & Toddler Lessons 9.30 - 10.00	Aquanatal 10.05 - 10.55	Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Aquafit 12.05 - 12.55	Private Use 1.00 - 3.30	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Floats Fun 6.00 - 7.00	Aquafit 7.05 - 7.55	Lane Swim 8.00 - 9.00
Th	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.00 - 10.30		Adult Lessons 10.30 - 11.30	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 4.00	Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00	Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30		Lane Swim 7.30 - 9.00
Fr	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.30 - 11.00		Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 3.00	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30		Canoe Club 7.30 - 9.30
Sa	Early Birds 7.30 - 8.30	Junior Lessons 8.30 - 12.00			Party Hire 12.00 - 12.50	Floats Fun 1.00 - 3.00		Party Hire 3.00 - 3.50	Swimming pool closes at 3.50pm	
Su	Lane Swim 8.00 - 9.00	Family Fun 9.00 - 11.00		Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Party Hire 12.00 - 12.50	Floats Fun 1.00 - 2.30		Public Swim + 1 Lane 2.30 - 4.00	Swimming pool closes at 4.00pm	

Ramsey Deputy Mayor torn between two sides

Ramsey Town Councillor Doug McIlwain was left in a tough spot this month, as Ramsey Town FC took on his long-time favourites Huntingdon Town FC, for whom he currently serves as Club Chairman.

Ramsey town councillor Doug Mcilwain was torn between two sides at this month's local derby between Ramsey Town and Huntingdon Town, being Chairman at Huntingdon while Deputy Mayor of Ramsey. Diplomatically supporting both teams throughout the game, Doug made sure to grab a photo with both squads before the pre-season friendly kicked off. With Ramsey sporting a new manager, Lea Jordan, and several new signings, this would be a key test against the more experienced, higher ranked Huntingdon team.

Speaking before the match, Lea was confident in his new squad, saying "we've got seven or eight new players, so it's an exciting time. Personally I think we've got a great side, with the players we've got here I personally feel that we can get promoted, but that's obviously down to the boys and how we play. It's about performing every day, even cold miserable Saturdays like this. But I think we can have a very good squad, it's just getting them gelled and getting the right balance in the team, but once we get that and once we get a few more friendlies out of the way it should be interesting."

The match itself started slowly, with Dan Woodhead's injury the only mildly diverting moment of an uneventful first 20 minutes where the play was largely in favour of Ramsey. However, Huntingdon were soon of the mark, scoring after an excellent run and a shot to the top corner. The teams seemed evenly matched throughout the remainder of the first half, with more pressure from Huntingdon after the goal. Half time came with Huntingdon one in front, although some Ramsey fans seemed more interested with the antics of the subs, who cracked the guttering on the Hunt's clubhouse during their half-time warm up.

The real turnaround came in the second half, as the Hunts FC striker slotted one home after just one minute of play. However, he did cause controversy during the second half when Huntingdon were forced to substitute him by the referee, who asked him to 'take some time out' a challenge. This angered the Hunt's bench, who complained of his "sin-bin" until he was able to return to the field.

Despite this, the second half was all one-way traffic, with Huntingdon's continual pressure leading to a third goal around the 70-minute mark, and another around five minutes later. Again the ref found himself under pressure, having allowed Huntingdon to play on for the third goal after a foul, but the fourth was created by a nice passing movement that left Ramsey standing.

After the game, Doug remained diplomatic, saying "Well obviously I'm happy, it's unfortunate as being deputy mayor of Ramsey it's never easy to see your home team loose, but being chairman of Huntingdon town it's always good to see my club win. I think the boys put up a good fight on both sides, yes Huntingdon Town is higher up the leagues than Ramsey but football is a funny game and you never know what's going to happen! I wish Ramsey all the best, and if I get a weekend free I'll be going to watch the boys."

ARIEL ACROBATS

•BATTLE OVER HOLME•

Close to 25 competitors took to the skies over Holme this month as part of the British Aerobatic Association's Sports & Intermediate British National Championships.

Two trophies were up for grabs this year at Conington Airfield, with the Intermediate BAeA Plate and the Nigel Arthur Cup both hotly contested.

In aerobatic competition flying, pilots are expected to stay within the both height and distance restrictions, which creates what is known as 'the box'. Contestants are then expected to perform three runs, one a pre-prepared set of acrobatics called the Known Sequence, followed by two rounds of Unknown sequences where pilots are given a new set of manoeuvres based on their aircraft and level of ability.

The two competitions were split over three days, with pilots enjoying all the comforts of the Flying Club's bar and some pub grub at the local Premier Inn. Judges also had to grapple with several technical gremlins, including a major update of the Chief Scoring Director's laptop and a large reprint of the scoring sheets.

After three rounds, the scoreboard was tight, with only around 150 points (around 3% of all score available) separating the top two, but Kris Liesmons beat out Sam Kempsey for the Nigel Arthur Cup, both flying Extra 200 aircraft. However, the Intermediate BAeA Plate was subject to some controversy due to an issue with the rules. According to BAeA rules there only a resident pilot was able to win the trophy for top place so the BAeA plate went to technical number two Hipwell, who flew an Extra 230.

Nene Park Golf Club raises over £150 for Red Cross

A successful charity golf tournament raised £166.00 for the Red Cross, with a Bury resident taking home the trophy.

The Old Nene Golf Club held its inaugural Red Cross Shield on August 29th. It was won by Luke Seery, came in with 37 points against a field of over thirty men and women, many of which donated more than the mandatory £3.00 entry fee. The original total of £136.00 was accentuated by an additional £30, donated by the winners of the 2 shot challenge.

The event was organised by Rob Cooper, the immediate past-captain and current competition secretary at the club. He recalled: "I got an email from the Red Cross initially asking if I could put a fundraising event, and last year as with every year we were oversubscribed with competitions. The only think I could offer was a bank holiday this year, and the August bank holiday was the most convenient and the one that you'll never have another competition on." The Old Nene club was the only local club to agree to host an event.

Speaking before the event, Red Cross representative and committee member Alexandria Edwards spoke of the need to inform residents that the Red Cross do work in their area, saying "The Red Cross profile makes national news, and even in Cambridgeshire everything is focused around Cambridgeshire, but we do encompass Huntingdon and its local area." She also thanked the participants, explaining that their money would not only go to help the Red Cross' international work but also its more grassroots campaigns.

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XTREME ACTIVE
LAUNCH IN RAMSEY

Xtreme Events launched sister company Xtreme Active at One Leisure Ramsey this month, a unique franchise designed to get the next generation into exercise while having fun.

The company will be officially launched at Leisure Industry Week in September, however the company did run a fun day on August 14th, launching the brand in the local area. One Leisure, who hosted the event, is the first Cambridgeshire licensee for the company. Several of the company's unique products were on display, including the inflatable 'bubble football', which has swept the world with satisfied customers including Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez of the Barcelona 1st team.

"We've got a lot of people interested", company director Warren Whitfield confirmed, adding that five licenses had already been purchased. The Xtreme Events portfolio of activities, we realised were a fantastic mix of fun but also incredibly tiring, and we thought that the leisure industry was so tired with their offerings like the Roller-Disco and soft play parties, that our portfolio offerings would fit straight into that industry. "

Xtreme Active officially goes live on September 21st 2016.

Upwood Cricket Club Report August 2016

By Neil Tuffin

As the season comes to a close it is "squeaky bum" time for Upwood 1st as they push for promotion from Hunts League Division 3. With four games to go Upwood are third, 10 points adrift of 2nd place and promotion behind Sawtry. Houghton and Wyton & Biggleswade are closely behind in 4th and 5th. Upwood have to play all their nearest rivals in the coming weeks and so it's all to play for. Recent results have been mixed with a weakened Upwood side putting in a poor performance against Houghton and Wyton but bouncing back to comfortably beat Ramsey 3rds most recently. Upwood scored 254 for 6 of their 45 overs helped by a magnificent century from David Drage. Upwood then restricted Ramsey for 200 for 9 with Zac Stevens posting tidy figures of 2 for 20 off his 10 overs.

The seconds have continued to improve winning their second game of the year against Little Paxton and moving off the bottom of Hunts League Division 5. Star performers were Rick Masters with bowling figures of 4 for 10 off his 8 overs and Mickey Drage crashing in with another score of 70 plus.

Sponsorship

Upwood have also been fortunate to receive sponsorship from Mick George in the form of a large wheelie bin which will be collected fortnightly. As the club has become busier the rubbish generated has become an issue and this amenity will make life a lot easier for the rest of the season and the committee are very grateful to the waste management company for helping the club out.

Junior training has now finished for the season and two tournaments were organised for the end of August. Firstly, an under 9 event at Upwood on Sunday 28th August which started around 9.30am. Other local teams were put together, including; Ramsey, St Ives, Orton Park, Warboys and Newborough. Bacon butties were on offer, along with a sweet stall, bar and BBQ. Upwood also be entered a team in an under 11 tournament the next day at Ramsey Cricket Club.

End of season festival

Finally, the club will be holding its end of season festival at the Ground on Saturday 17th September starting at 4-30pm. The evening will start off with the junior awards followed by a Hog Roast, Disco, Bouncy Castle and Bucking Bronco. The bar will be open until late with Draught Ales on sale. Cost is £15 for an adult ticket and £10 per child (under 3's free). Non club members are very welcome as are any old members wanting to see some old faces in a familiar (but improved) setting.

If you wish to join or want any more info please email Neil on **npe.tuffin@gmail.com** or visit **www.upwood.play-cricket.com**

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The field looks on as Steve Lovell aces the eighteenth. (Marion Homer)

Steve gets close in Worthing

British international minigolfer Steve Lovell came so close to his first individual title by finishing third in the Splash Point Open on the Sussex coast. Leading by a shot going into the last round, the British Doubles Champion had a costly double bounce out on the pipe hole giving Michael Smith and Nuno Cunha the chance they needed.

'For once in the final round, I was in complete control,' Steve mused. 'I played the first ten holes in five under par and was starting to pull away. I got to the pipe hole, the thirteenth, which I hadn't missed the entry all day, even in practice. Twice it went in and out, I couldn't believe it.'

Closest finish

Smith and Cunha both drew level and in the closest finish of the season, eventually overtook Lovell on the penultimate hole. Michael Smith won at the first extra hole. 'I didn't sleep very well that night, but I know I shook up the best in the land, so I feel confident that I'll get a win one day,' Steve added.

The result dropped Steve to third in the national rankings, behind the players who beat him in Worthing, before the summer break. The tour resumes with the British Open in Hastings mid-September.

Steve Lovell receives his prize in the clubhouse. (Marion Homer)

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